

Open Air Campaigners International

Policy Handbook
4th Edition, March 2005

'I pray that all of them may be one so that the world may believe that you have sent me.' (John 17:21)

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This handbook was accepted as the basis for international policy by the OACI Council in Australia in 1992. It was revised in 1996 (Belgium), in 2000 (Brazil) and in 2002 by all three Zones.

The current 2004 printed edition of this handbook was edited by David Wilson 2004 Council changes and European layout by Chris Mathieson © OAC International 2005

1 Introduction

The purpose of this document is to describe the basis on which members of OACI work together, particularly in the case of overseas expansion.

2 Nature of OACI

Open Air Campaigners International is an association of autonomous OAC National Branches that are bound together by:

1. The OACI statement of faith;
2. The OACI statement of purpose;
3. OACI policy;
4. Fellowship and trust.

3 Statement of faith

3.1 The Scriptures

We believe God inspired all the words of the Bible without error in the original writings to give mankind his authoritative message.

3.2 The Godhead

We believe in one God eternally existing in three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

3.3 Jesus Christ

We believe in his full deity, his virgin birth, his real humanity, his sinless life, his substitutionary death, his bodily resurrection, his ascension into heaven, his present ministry as High Priest and his future personal return to this earth.

3.4 The Holy Spirit

We believe in his full deity. He convicts sinners and saves those who believe in Christ. He indwells, seals and places believers into the body of Christ. He gives spiritual gifts and the power to live the Christian life.

3.5 Man

We believe that God created all things as described in Genesis. We believe that the first man, Adam, sinned, bringing spiritual death to all mankind, who, therefore, stand condemned, making the new birth absolutely necessary.

3.6 Salvation

We believe that God gives eternal life to those who repent and put their faith in Christ alone, justifying them by the blood of Christ and imputing his righteousness to them.

3.7 The Church

We believe in the universal church to which all believers belong. We believe in the importance of the local church, which is made up of believers who gather for worship, fellowship and teaching. We believe in the responsibility of the Church to fulfill the Great Commission of Christ, preaching the Gospel to all nations.

3.8 The Future

We believe in the eternal existence of the soul, the resurrection of the body, the eternal blessedness of believers, the eternal punishment of unbelievers.

4 Statement of purpose

Open Air Campaigners International is an interdenominational ministry of evangelism committed to preaching the Gospel to the unreached through open air and other outreaches in partnership with the church.

Our motto is: Presenting Christ by all means everywhere.

5 OACI Council

5.1 Description

The OACI Council is made up of delegates from each member National Branch, and meets every four years to:

1. Ensure that each member National Branch continues to hold to:
 - a. the OACI statement of faith.
 - b. the OACI policy.
 - c. the OACI statement of purpose.
 - d. maintaining fellowship and trust with member branches.
2. Create or modify OACI policy.
3. Conduct OACI business.
4. Elect an OACI President

5.2 Votes per National Branch

The number of votes per National Branch is a function of the number of full-time staff:

- * 1 to 4 staff: 1 vote
- * 5 to 15 staff: 2 votes
- * More than 15 staff: 3 votes

For the purpose of voting, "full-time staff" are those workers who have completed relevant training, who are involved in any aspect of OAC ministry, who are accountable to OAC for the use of their time, and for whom OAC ministry is the principle activity.

5.3 Delegates

To be able to vote, the National Branch must have a delegate present at the international meeting. A delegate must be a member of the council or a member of the full-time staff of the voting National Branch.

5.4 Resolutions

Resolutions brought before the OACI Council shall be considered passed if they receive a two-thirds majority vote of approval, except for resolutions to change the doctrinal statement and/or the statement of purpose, which shall require a three-fourths majority vote.

5.5 Quorum

A quorum for an OACI Council meeting shall be sufficient delegates present to cast 51% of the total OACI delegates votes.

6 OACI Zones

6.1 Definition

An OACI Zone is a geographical area in which two or more OAC National Branches are ministering or plan to minister.

6.2 Present

Pacific/SE Asia, Americas, and European.

6.3 Future

South/Central America, Africa, and Asia.

(India is being monitored by the Overseas Ministries Branch of the Americas Zone until another National Branch is established in Asia, when the Asian Zone can be formed.)

6.4 Zone Council

A Zone Council is made up of National Directors, or their representatives, and the Overseas Ministries Director within the Zone, and one of these shall be elected as the Chairman every two years.

6.5 Accountability

The Zone Counsel serves under, and is subject to, the OACI Council.

6.6 Purpose

1. The purpose of the Zone Council is to:

a: ensure that the Zone continues to be bound together by:

- The OACI Statement of Faith
- The OACI Policy
- The OACI Statement of Purpose
- Fellowship and Trust.

b) Forward the development of OACI within the zone through

- fellowship, information and prayer
- organisation of joint projects
- sharing ideas and resources.

2. The Zone Council may pass resolutions concerning the Zone, but these resolutions shall not be in conflict with OACI Policy, or cause conflict with other Zones.

3. The Zone Council cannot change the OACI Policy, including the OACI Statement of Faith and Statement of Purpose.

However, if all the Zones pass the same resolution, the resolution will become OACI Policy.

6.7 Quorum

A quorum for a Zone Council meeting shall be sufficient delegates present to cast 51% of the total Zone delegate votes.

6.8 Voting

Votes (delegate) per National Branch shall be the same as for the OACI Council. Resolutions shall be considered passed if they receive a two-thirds majority vote of approval.

All resolutions must be approved by the OACI President, and any not approved must be referred to the other Zone Councils for approval.

6.9 Zone Chairman

1. The Zone Chairman shall be accountable to the Zone Council and to the OACI President.

2. The Zone Chairman shall be responsible for the following:

a To ensure that all National Directors are aware of OACI and Zone Policy, and that the OACI Purpose, Doctrine, and fellowship are preserved on the Zone level.

b To be aware of the activity and developments in the Zone, encourage National Directors, and assist as requested.

c To prepare the agenda for Zone meetings in consultation with National Directors, and to chair the meetings. He shall also keep the other Zone Chairmen and the OACI President informed.

d To attempt to attend the other Zone Conferences.

7 OACI Leadership

7.1 Decision-making between OACI council meetings

OACI decisions can be made in-between international conferences so long as all Zones are in agreement. The Zone requiring a decision in such a manner must forward the resolution and accompanying documentation to the OACI President who will then circulate the appropriate Zones. The President will require a response from these Zones following their next meeting.

7.2 The International President

1. The role of the International President is:

- a To co-ordinate the international work of OAC between the zones.
- b To ensure that all zone policies are formatted in accordance with OACI policy.
- c To maintain an international office being available to answer questions and provide advice as necessary.
- d To convene and chair the zone chairman's committee when necessary.
- e To intervene as a mediator in international and national disputes when he deems necessary.
- f To chair the International Council of OACI.
- g To take responsibility for producing an annual financial report for the use of OACI funds and distributing it to all National Branches.
- h To encourage, guide and counsel National Branches.
- i To represent OAC International to the rest of the body of Christ.
- j To publish an annual OACI UPDATE that will cover some aspect of each National Branch's ministry, which can be used as a promotional publication for all the staff.
- k To visit each National Branch around the world at least once during his term of office.
- l To publish an OACI Directory at least once during his term.
- m To attend each Zone Conference.
- n To make special financial needs known to our OAC National Branches.
- o The President shall arrange the OACI Conference in consultation with the host National Branch Director. He shall notify all Zone Branches of the time and place, ensuring that a quorum will be present, requesting items for an agenda, and circulating this agenda at least one month before the Conference.
- p Be responsible to publish an OACI policy handbook immediately after the OACI conference, incorporating all changes approved by the OACI council, to be mailed to all staff members and National chairmen. Should there only be a few changes, a list of these changes should be mailed instead.
- q. To mail to all staff and National chairmen a list of any changes to the OACI policy handbook that have been approved by all Zone councils in between OACI conferences.

2. The International President is accountable to the OACI Council.
3. The OACI President is appointed for a 4-year term. This term would normally expire at the end of the subsequent OACI Council meeting, but could be extended by one more 4-year term.
4. The OACI President shall be a person with at least 10 years of full-time OAC ministry as an evangelist.

7.3 The Vice President

1. The Vice President shall assist and represent the President upon his request.
2. He will replace the President should that position become vacant, and hold that office until the next OACI Council meeting.
3. He shall have the qualifications of an International President.

7.4 The OACI Treasurer

1. The OACI Treasurer shall keep all financial records.
2. The person for this position shall be appointed by the International President.
3. The length of term shall be the same as the International President.

7.5 National Directors

National Directors shall have the following qualifications:

1. A recognized call, ministry, and close walk with the Lord.
2. Willingness to carry out the OACI Purpose.
3. The minimum OACI Bible Education requirement for staff evangelists.
4. Ability to preach in a church.
5. Competency in the language of the Branch.
6. Completion of two years of training on OAC staff as an evangelist in a National Branch, or two years of training under the supervision of the National Branch or OMB holding the NAP for the country in which he is living and ministering.
7. Sufficient personal and ministry support.
8. Full awareness of, and commitment to, OACI Policy.
9. Clear leadership skills.

10. A vision and desire to recruit and train nationals.
11. A working knowledge of English.
12. A willingness to work under authority and be accountable to the OACI and Zone Councils.
13. Regular attendance at a home church.
14. Committed to attend Zone and OACI Conferences, or to send a representative.

8 Election of an OACI President

1. Each Zone shall make every effort to nominate an OAC staff evangelist from the Zone, or from another Zone, for the position of the OACI President.
2. In the event of a tie, the Zone may nominate both evangelists.
3. The Zone Chairman shall make this nomination at the next OACI Conference.
4. The nominees for President must be present (unless prevented by an emergency situation) at the OACI Conference, and be ready to answer questions from the OACI Council.
5. Each nominee must meet the requirements for the office of the President, as set out in OACI Policy.
6. The President shall be elected by secret ballot by the OACI Council during the OACI Conference.
7. In the event of a tie, a time of prayer shall be held, after which further voting shall be held until a President is elected.

9 Selection of an OACI Vice President

1. The newly elected OACI President shall choose his Vice President from any Zone within three months, who will serve during the current term of the President, and continue until a new Vice president has been appointed.
2. The Vice President shall attend his Zone Conference, and attempt to attend the other Zone Conferences.

10 International Evangelist

'International Evangelist' is a title given to recognize longevity in OAC as an evangelist whose ministry is largely international.

11 Development of OAC Ministry

11.1 Stages

OAC ministry in a country can be considered to be at one of four stages:

1. Unclaimed Field

There is no regular OAC ministry in the country.

2. Claimed Field

A Branch has a regular ministry in the country, but probably does not have a residential worker and is not currently in a position to consider starting an autonomous National Branch.

3. Supervised National Branch

One or more National Branches are working to establish an Autonomous National Branch in the country.

4. Autonomous National Branch

An independent ministry recognized by OACI has been established in the country.

11.2 Definitions

1. Country

Used here to refer to a geographical region, not to any form of OAC ministry.

2. National Branch

A branch of OAC, which is registered, or in the process of being registered, in a country.

3. Host Nation or Zone

One that receives a visit or staff from a Sending National Branch or Zone.

4. Autonomous National Branches

Those national branches which have been recognized as full voting members of OACI following compliance with current procedures for establishing an indigenous ministry in a new country. The term "autonomous" refers to the direction of ministry, not necessarily to financial or staffing considerations.

5. National Autonomy Plan (NAP)

Describes the process by which an Autonomous National Branch intends to establish an overseas branch of OAC which itself will ultimately become an Autonomous National Branch. The NAP is approved and supervised by the appropriate Zone, the International President and the OACI Council.

6. Supervised National Branches

Those branches which are working to become Autonomous National Branches, but which have not yet completed the necessary steps. Supervision is provided by one or more Sponsoring National Branches, which will normally be in the same Zone as the Supervised National Branch. The Zone will raise a National Autonomy Plan for the Supervised Nation, and will monitor its progress towards autonomy.

The Borders of a Supervised or Autonomous National Branch are normally the same as the international boundaries of the country in which the National Branch is based.

7. Claimed Field

A country in which an Autonomous National Branch is working on a regular basis with the intention of establishing a NAP in that country. All such ministry is monitored by OACI via the appropriate Zone.

8. Unclaimed Field

A country or countries where OAC has no regular ministry. Unclaimed fields are monitored by the Zone in which the field is situated.

9. OAC Ministry

This describes all activities of member National Branches, and the activities of individual staff, which are related to the normal activities of OAC, or in which OAC's name is involved.

10. Overseas Ministries Branch

A branch set up within a Zone to help with the establishment of new OAC National Branches and the sending and supporting of OAC staff abroad.

12 Overseas Ministries Branch

12.1 Definition

An Overseas Ministries Branch (OMB) is a non-geographical autonomous branch set up within a Zone, and accountable to that Zone, to help with the establishment of new OACI autonomous National Branches, and the sending and supporting of OAC staff abroad.

12.2 Procedure

An OMB can request a National Autonomy Plan (NAP) on its own, or join with an OAC National Branch in a combined NAP.

12.3 Leadership

The Director of the OMB shall be a member of the Zone and OACI Council, and is eligible to vote.

12.4 Zone Relationship

An OMB may work outside of its Zone if it is granted permission by another Zone in which it wants to minister.

12.5 Branch Relationship

An OMB must not compete or be in conflict with any existing OAC National Branch, or local Branches therein. It may, however, assist an OAC National Branch at their invitation.

13 Bible education standard for full-time evangelists

It is highly recommended that all future full-time staff evangelists have successfully completed a minimum of one year study in Bible at a Bible College / Institute / School / Seminary, or the equivalent through an approved correspondence/extension course. Such courses of study must be in agreement with the OACI Doctrinal Statement.

14 Overseas ministry involving individual staff

14.1 Appointment of staff wishing to work overseas

When prospective staff apply to an Autonomous National Branch with the intention of working in another country, they should be informed of the relevant OACI policy as soon as possible. They would usually go through the normal selection procedure used in the Sending Country.

The Host Zone should be informed of all such decisions at the earliest opportunity, to ensure that appointments within the Zone are coordinated and so that any potential problems can be identified.

14.2 Visiting another National Branch

This section applies to staff intending to conduct ministry in a country in which a National Branch already exists.

The following points should be noted:

1. Staff should seek approval of all overseas ministry from their National Director. This applies even if permission for similar ministry has been granted in the past.
2. It is the responsibility of the Director of the Sending National Branch to contact the Director of the Host National Branch before the details of the visit are confirmed. Clarification of the proposed nature of the visit should be given if requested. Any difficulties will be dealt with at a Zone or inter-zone level, but a National Branch is ultimately responsible for deciding the nature of OAC ministry within its borders.
3. The Host National Branch should be kept fully informed of the results of ministry conducted during such visits.

14.3 Visiting a Claimed or Unclaimed Field

Visits of this type may be made in response to an invitation, or in order to evaluate the possibilities for a future OAC ministry in the country. The following points should be noted:

1. Permission for the visit is once again required from the staff member's National Director.
2. The Chairman of the Host Zone should be consulted before such a visit is planned, to ensure that work in the country is coordinated.
3. The Host Zone will ensure that the visit will not hinder present or future ministry by OAC in the country.
4. In claimed countries, the Field Representative of that country will usually be involved in the planning of such visits.
5. The appropriate Zone remains directly responsible for all visits to unclaimed countries, until a NAP is raised or a Field Representative is appointed.
6. A report on each visit should be sent to the National Director of the Sending National Branch and to the Host Zone chairman as soon as possible after the completion of each visit.

14.4 Reporting on short-term visits

The layout of reports will depend on the nature of the visit, but should include:

1. The nature of the invitation received or the reason for conducting a visit;
2. Any other organizations involved in the visit;
3. A description of the activities undertaken during the visit;
4. An assessment of the success of the visit, of difficulties encountered and of lessons learned;
5. Details of any future plans, including development of a long-term ministry.

14.5 Appointment of Nationals in Claimed or Unclaimed Fields

This section applies to those who live in a country in which a Branch does not yet exist, and who wish to be associated with OAC and involved in OAC ministry in their country. In these circumstances a National Branch may proceed in one of three ways:

1. The National Branch may apply for a NAP, and take the National onto the staff of the new supervised nation once it has been constituted;
2. The National may be appointed as a full-staff member of the National Branch and then sent back to his own country as a Field Representative;
3. The National may be appointed as an Associate Evangelist.

The comments made in section 14.1 apply, but clearly the appointment of a National Worker can raise particular problems. It should be remembered that the first associate or staff member in a country is likely to have a large effect on the long-term development of ministry in that country, and so decisions should not be made lightly. The Host Zone must approve any decision which would result in a member of staff working outside of a National Branch on a long-term basis, even if the staff member was resident in the country prior to his appointment.

National Branches must ensure that any Associate Evangelists appointed by them in another country understand that they are responsible to the appointing National Branch as far as OAC ministry is concerned, and that their appointment will not necessarily lead to directorship should a NAP be filed at a later stage.

14.6 Zone appointments

1. The Zones may appoint staff who have a ministry which is wider in scope than one country. These individuals must be on the staff of a member branch, to whom they are directly responsible, but their activities outside of this National Branch will be monitored by the Zone. They are subject to the normal guidelines concerning ministry in Autonomous and Supervised National Branches and Claimed or Unclaimed Fields.
2. Where ministry outside of the staff member's National Branch is likely to have financial implications, the ownership of stock and equipment and responsibility for assets and liabilities must be clearly established with his National Branch.

3. The Zones may each set up an Overseas Ministries Branch within the Zone to help with the establishment of new OAC National Branches and the sending and supporting of OAC staff abroad.
4. The International President should be informed of all Zone appointments.

14.7 Secondment to another National Branch

This section applies to staff intending to spend a period of more than three months working in a county in which a National Branch already exists, who will be conducting an OAC style of ministry, and who intend to return to their current National Branch after a specified period.

It is essential that a secondment or transfer be agreed by all concerned before the staff member leaves his National Branch.

Secondments will normally be worked out directly between two National Branches. The details of this arrangement will be decided by the National Branches involved, but should be made in writing and will usually cover at least the following aspects:

1. The purpose of the secondment (what type of ministry is envisaged);
2. The length of the secondment (or, where this is not possible, the task to be accomplished during the secondment);
3. The responsibilities of the Sending and Host National Branches (normally the staff member will be treated as being on the staff of the Host National Branch);
4. The arrangements for the support of the staff member. The Zones of the Sending and Host National Branches should be informed of all secondment arrangements.

14.8 Permanent transfer to another National Branch

This section applies to staff intending to conduct a long-term OAC style of ministry in a country in which an Autonomous or Supervised National Branch already exists and who intend to remain in the Host Country for the foreseeable future.

Transfers will normally be worked out directly between two National Branches. The details of this arrangement will be decided by the National Branches involved. Once the transfer takes place, the Sending National Branch relinquishes all responsibility for the staff member, although it may still channel financial support via the Host National Branch.

The Zones of the Sending and Host National Branches should be informed of all transfers.

14.9 Secondment to another organization

This section applies to staff intending to spend an extended period working with another missionary society or evangelical organization, and who intend to return to their current National Branch after a specified period.

All the comments in section 14.7 relative to secondment within OAC apply, but the need for a clear mutual understanding between the organizations involved is obviously even more critical.

A staff member may be seconded to an organization to work in a country in which a National Branch already exists, provided that the Host National Branch is in agreement and the staff member's ministry will not interfere with the Host National Branch's ministry.

All secondments to other organizations must be approved by the Host Zone.

15 Expansion into new countries

15.1 Claiming an Unclaimed Country

The Host Zone may allow an Autonomous National Branch or Overseas Ministries Branch to "claim" a country if:

1. That Branch has already made at least two visits to the country;
2. The Branch intends to continue a regular ministry in the country;
3. A staff member or exceptionally an Associate Evangelist from that Branch is ready to assume responsibility for ministry in that country.

If these conditions are met, the Zone Council may give a National Branch or Overseas Ministries Branch responsibility for a country, and will then appoint a Field Representative for that country in consultation with the Branch wishing to claim it. The International President should be informed of all such decisions. The claiming Branch does not have exclusive rights to work in the country, but will seek to work with other interested parties to oversee development of work in the country.

The post of Field Representative is not transferable except by the Zone Council, and the claim of a Branch to a country under such circumstances is renewable at each Zone Council meeting.

Definition of a Field Representative:

- a) Be a qualified staff evangelists
- b) Be the point of contact for ministry in the claimed country
- c) Works regularly in the claimed country
- d) Reports to the National Director of the claiming national Branch
- e) The claiming national Branch remains responsible to report

The acceptance of a claim to a country does not automatically mean that a residential ministry has been approved; it is envisaged that ministry will normally take the form of visits, at least initially.

15.2 Residential ministry

Sending staff overseas is a big step and needs to be controlled carefully in the best interests of all concerned. Authorization for such a move must be sought by and received from the appropriate Zone. Staff can only be posted abroad for periods exceeding three months under the following circumstances:

1. As part of the process of fulfilling a NAP (see 15.3);
2. When staff are seconded or transferred;
3. When specific permission is granted by the Zone due to exceptional circumstances.

When considering an application for permission to take up residence in a country, the following questions should be asked:

1. Are there sufficient ministry opportunities to warrant such a move?

2. Is this the best way to develop OAC's ministry in this country? Could the country be better served by occasional visits or by bringing Nationals to another country for training?
3. Will the move be prejudicial to the safety or stability of the staff member or his/her family?
4. Is the staff member suited to such a move, and is his/her family situation appropriate to the prevailing conditions in the Host country?
5. Have practical matters such as visas, accommodation, medical cover and finance been fully explored?
6. Will the staff member receive sufficient moral support from Christians in the Host Country?
7. How will the staff member be supervised?

Staff who are posted overseas need to be supported and should ideally be visited at least annually by a National Director who will provide encouragement, advice and guidance.

15.3 The National Autonomy Plan

The transition from ministry directed from another Branch to an Autonomous National Branch status is governed by a National Autonomy Plan (NAP). One or more Autonomous National Branches or Overseas Ministries Branch can apply for a NAP for a country, and acceptance and monitoring will be the responsibility of the Host Zone.

Only one NAP will be issued for a country at any one time. When two or more Branches are granted a joint NAP for a country, one Branch will be appointed as having primary responsibility for enactment of the NAP.

Before a NAP is issued, the Zone must be convinced that OAC can have a useful input into the country, and that the establishment of an Autonomous National Branch is the best way of achieving this. Other options which should be considered include secondment to another organization, regular visits to the country, and the training of Nationals in a country already covered by a Branch.

The Branch applying for a NAP will normally have extensive experience of ministry in the country in question, will already have "claimed" the country in question, and might well have one or more staff resident in the country following previous Zone approval.

The NAP should be presented to the Zone, and should give the following information:

1. A summary of ministry to date in the country;
2. The reason for wishing to establish a branch in the country;
3. The names and all relevant information concerning the personnel who will be involved in the project, including the proposed Acting National Director;
4. Details of the mechanism by which financial support, supervision and pastoral support will be given to staff in the country in the period preceding completion of the NAP;
5. Provision for language study, if applicable;

6. The provisional program for establishment of the Autonomous National Branch.

When considering an application, the Zone will consider the likelihood of the specific proposals in the NAP leading to a viable Autonomous National Branch. Some of the issues that they will consider include:

1. The extent to which the overall direction of the ministry is in keeping with the aims of OAC;
2. The extent to which the ministry is likely to gain the support of a range of evangelical churches and organizations in the country;
3. The extent to which the first staff, and particularly the Acting National Director, is likely to reproduce his ministry.

The International President should be informed whenever a NAP is issued. A NAP can be cancelled at the request of the Sponsoring Branch or Branches, or by decision of the Zone.

15.4 Creation of a new Autonomous National Branch

Once a NAP has been issued and ratified by the International President, the Acting National Director will be appointed, and the work of OAC in the Host Country will be accorded Supervised National Branch status. The Zone retains responsibility for the Supervised National Branch; this responsibility is normally delegated to the Sponsoring Branch or Branches, who will report on developments in the Supervised National Branch at each Zone Council Meeting.

The Sponsoring Branch or Branches will start to work towards the registration of OAC as an organization within the Host Country. This organization will be interdenominational in character, will adhere to the OAC Doctrinal Statement and Statement of Purpose, and will adopt a name approved by the Zone. A council will be appointed, and appropriate support structures put into place.

Drafts of the constitutive documents of the organization will be submitted to the Zone for approval before the organization is registered. A policy book will also be developed.

Once the organization is registered, and has been functioning for at least one year, the following documents should be presented to the Zone as the final precursor to recognition as an Autonomous National Branch:

1. A report of the development of the ministry;
2. Details of the membership of the organization's staff and council;
3. The constitutive documents of the organization;
4. The policy book;

A financial report.

If these documents are satisfactory, the Zone will normally deem the NAP to have been completed. The International President and the other Zone Chairmen will be informed of this and given copies of the documentation presented to the Host Zone.

The National Branch covered by the NAP will be able to operate as a full member of the Zone from this point until the International Conference can ratify its decision. The newly recognized National Branch is then autonomous as far as the direction of the work is concerned but may still receive financial support from other National Branches.

16 Church planting and OACI

Evangelism should produce church growth, and in some areas where no church exists, new churches need to be planted. OAC will continue to be involved in church planting projects but needs to avoid any action which would compromise its interdenominational character. OAC is not a church-planting mission but seeks to work closely with churches or organizations that do have this ministry in order to see the Great Commission fulfilled. Member National Branches are therefore requested to keep within the following guidelines:

16.1 OAC staff may work as part of a church planting team which is led by a church, mission or denomination.

16.2 OAC staff may be seconded to church planting missions.

16.3 OAC staff will seek to respect the distinctiveness of churches and missions with whom they work.

16.4 OAC will not play a leadership role in new congregations which are established through its ministry.

17 Name changes

Branches wishing to adopt a name other than Open Air Campaigners or OAC Ministries must submit their proposal to OACI for approval.

18 Ransom demands by Terrorists

OACI member countries will not submit to terrorists' demands and no ransom or blackmail will be paid for the release of any member held hostage by terrorists.