

## How To Partner with Missionary Families

*with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the gospel*

Our prayer is that we will be a blessing to our missionaries, not a burden. Our desire is to lessen their burdens through prayer and practical support. Every missionary family is different and has unique needs for engagement; ask missionaries how we can best partner with them. Give them a list and ask, “*here are some ways we have helped others; which of these ideas might work for you?*”.

Create a wish-list for each missionary family. Sometime during the year set up a gift tree with cards listing missionary needs; have people in the church select a card and provide the gift. Implement a missionary needs board, with an ongoing list of items or services which will help support their ministry.

We have identified six categories of care to consider when partnering with a missionary along with a list of suggested actions. Don’t expect to do everything on the list; your relationship with a missionary should be continuous and long-term. Please pray about ways you can be more involved.

*3 John 5-8 Beloved, it is a faithful thing you do in all your efforts for these brothers, strangers as they are, who testified to your love before the church. You will do well to send them on their journey in a manner worthy of God. For they have gone out for the sake of the name, accepting nothing from the Gentiles. Therefore we ought to support people like these, that we may be fellow workers for the truth.*

*Philippians 1:9-11 And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment, 10 so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, 11 filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.*

Category	Scripture	Actions
Prayer Support	<p><i>2<sup>nd</sup> Thessalonians 3:1 Finally, brothers, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may speed ahead and be honored, as happened among you</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Pray daily. Schedule a specific time for missionary prayer. Pray for their family and their ministry.</li> <li>➤ Follow up on prayer requests received from the missionary.</li> <li>➤ Display their picture in your home.</li> <li>➤ Send pictures of your family to the missionary.</li> <li>➤ Share missionary requests with your friends.</li> <li>➤ Forward your email prayers and let the missionary know you are partners in prayer.</li> <li>➤ Send your prayer needs to the missionary so they can pray for you.</li> </ul>
Moral Support & Encouragement	<p><i>Acts 14:22 strengthening the souls of the disciples, encouraging them to continue in the faith</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Send emails. Add the missionary to church email lists. Be aware of security in the host country.</li> <li>➤ Send notes and cards, for birthdays, anniversaries, and other special occasions.</li> <li>➤ Mail care packages and include items for all ages.</li> <li>➤ Call them on the phone or make zoom calls.</li> <li>➤ Add missionaries to your church mailing lists.</li> <li>➤ Invite local missionaries to church events, family events, meals, and other activities.</li> <li>➤ Meet with local missionaries for lunch or coffee.</li> <li>➤ Visit the missionary. Ask ahead of time how you can bless them.</li> <li>➤ When the missionary visits provide a basket with gift cards, snacks, books, small presents.</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ When the missionary is in town provide a fun activity in your town.</li> </ul>
Spiritual Support	<p><i>1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 3:9</i>  <i>For we are God's fellow workers. You are God's field, God's building.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Provide RightNow Media subscriptions.</li> <li>➤ Connect missionaries with online training and classes.</li> <li>➤ Send theology resources and books.</li> <li>➤ Call weekly for accountability.</li> <li>➤ Be a part of conflict resolution; refer missionaries to counselors as needed.</li> <li>➤ Perform a spiritual health evaluation and develop a plan to move forward.</li> <li>➤ Send couples to a marriage enrichment weekend.</li> </ul>
Financial Support	<p><i>3 John 8 Therefore we ought to support people like these, that we may be fellow workers for the truth.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Provide monthly support.</li> <li>➤ Fund special projects.</li> <li>➤ Help raise funds by making connections with potential partners.</li> <li>➤ Find them a part-time job while on deputation.</li> <li>➤ When the missionary visits, schedule a social meeting in your home to present the ministry.</li> <li>➤ During visits take the missionary shopping or provide gift cards.</li> <li>➤ Provide scholarships or purchase curriculum for missionary kids.</li> <li>➤ Sponsor missionary kids at a Christian camp.</li> <li>➤ Host a shower for the missionary (food, household goods, office supplies).</li> <li>➤ Purchase needed equipment: cell phones, computers, musical instruments.</li> </ul>
Communication Support	<p><i>1<sup>st</sup> Thessalonians 5:11 Therefore encourage one another and build</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Help send updates to their supporters, either emails or letters.</li> <li>➤ Provide office supplies: stamps, envelopes, paper.</li> </ul>

	<i>one another up, just as you are doing.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Assist with their website and online presence.</li> <li>➤ Help produce prayer cards, brochures.</li> <li>➤ Add more people to their mailing lists.</li> <li>➤ Arrange meetings when the missionary visits your area: key staff, small groups, other churches.</li> </ul>
Practical Support	<i>Titus 3:14 And let our people learn to devote themselves to good works, so as to help cases of urgent need, and not be unfruitful.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Provide technology support: software and hardware, connectivity.</li> <li>➤ Help them produce a slideshow or video about their ministry.</li> <li>➤ Fill up their tank with gas, provide an oil change, buy new tires.</li> <li>➤ Arrange housing when missionaries visit.</li> <li>➤ Schedule hair appointments for the ladies, haircuts for the men.</li> <li>➤ Provide storage for missionary equipment.</li> <li>➤ Offer to be their US mailing address.</li> <li>➤ Buy magazine subscriptions; ask them what would benefit them most.</li> <li>➤ If they have family in the US (kids or parents) help them with their needs.</li> <li>➤ Visit the missionary and provide maintenance for their facilities.</li> <li>➤ Do yard work or repairs to their home.</li> <li>➤ Set up an amazon registry for the missionary and family.</li> <li>➤ Arrange for help with legal issues: wills, POAs, taxes, funerals, health care, financial planning.</li> </ul>