

SENDING – WAYS TO SUPPORT SHORT TERM MISSIONARIES

Romans 10: 13 - 15a: “for, Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved. How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can they preach unless they are sent?”

For each GOER, SENDERS are needed. Senders play an important role in missions by providing moral, logistical, financial, prayer, communication, and re-entry support. Senders will use their God-given gifts of intercession, administration, encouragement, hospitality, etc. in this process. Some practical ways this plays out in the missions we do is as follows:

MORAL SUPPORT - encourage those who feel led to go, ensure they are being disciplined by Godly people, help guide them in developing a worldview, actively listen and help boost their morale.

- Help the missionary stay focused on seeking God and Godly counsel; participate in Bible study with the missionary.
- Before they go, help the missionary practice aspects of the lifestyle of the culture where they'll be serving.
- Provide encouragement and support during the expected emotional cycles that your missionary will experience.

LOGISTICAL SUPPORT - help the missionary with the paperwork and organizational tasks ahead of and during their mission (applications, etc.) Provide assistance to missionaries with their business affairs while they're away.

- Assist with packing for the mission.
- Arrange for transportation to/from the airport (upon departure and return).
- Attend to the missionary's errands while they're away.
- Help the missionary organize their pictures, videos, and journals for presentations.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT – give to the missionary, help them raise support and manage their finances.

- Help the missionary prepare and mail support letters.
- Financially contribute to the mission.

PRAYER SUPPORT – support your missionary by praying for them and by encouraging others to do so.

- Pray with and for the missionary, and encourage others to pray for specific needs expressed by the missionary.
- Organize/host groups that will meet together and pray; print and distribute prayer cards and letters.

COMMUNICATION SUPPORT – communicate with the missionary and encourage others to do so.

- IF POSSIBLE, communicate periodically throughout your missionary's stay: mail, e-mail, telephone.
- Communicate to your missionary's family, and help encourage them.
- Be sure to save the church bulletins and message CDs for your missionary's return.
- Keep newspapers and/or write down current local and national events so the missionary can keep up.

RE-ENTRY SUPPORT – make your missionary feel that their service is valued; educate yourself on the emotions the returning missionary may be experiencing and be prepared to help them through these things.

- Greet the missionary upon their return, plan or host a return celebration in their honor.
- Help the missionary get settled; help with their laundry and other return tasks.
- Spend time with your missionary and be a GREAT listener.