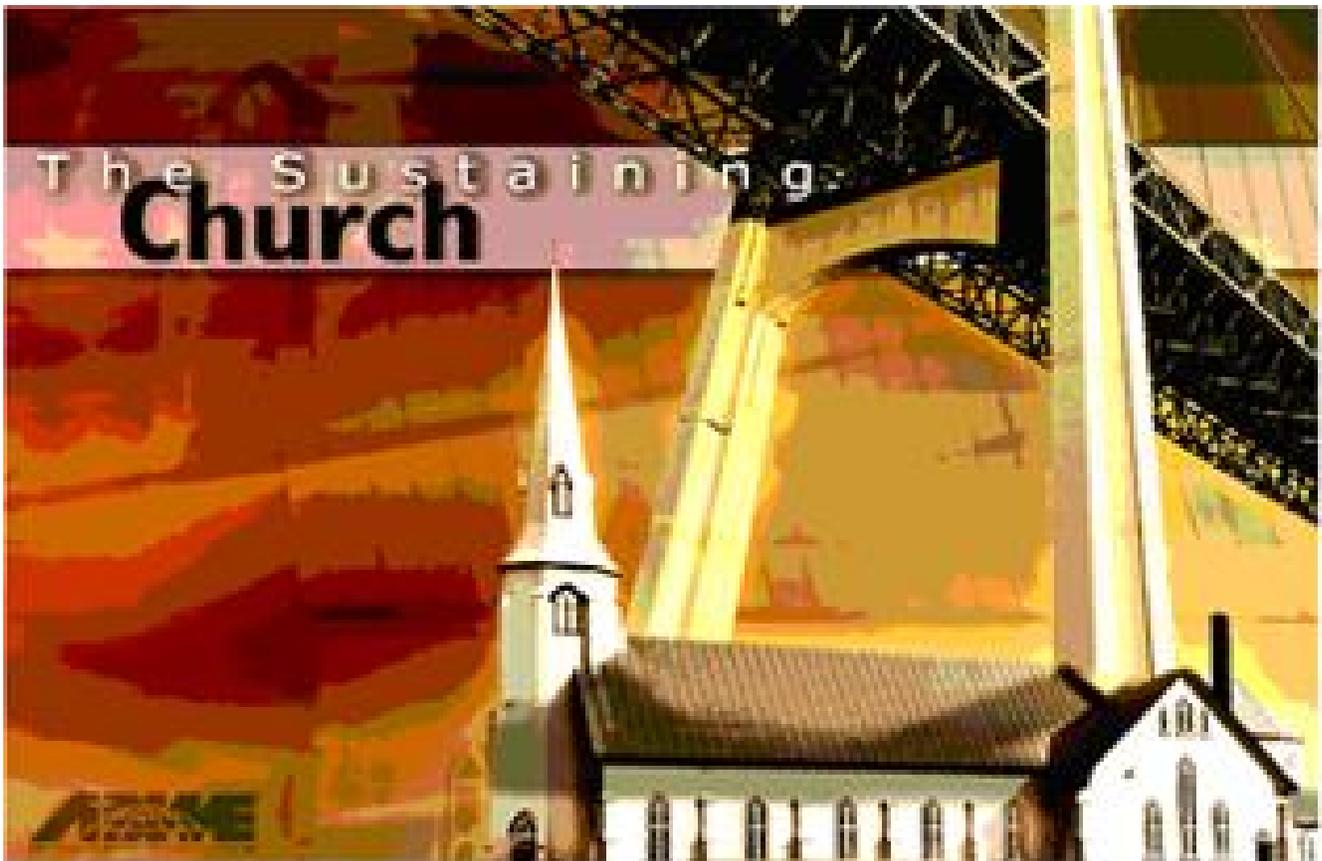


Sustaining Church Workbook



Philippians 1:19; 2:25-30; 4:10-20

Ephesians 6:18-20; Romans 15:30-32

3 John 5-8

THE SUSTAINING CHURCH

It is the responsibility of the local church to retain and sustain a generation of global disciple makers

living the gospel, sharing the gospel, planting churches and launching missions movements worldwide until Jesus returns.

The Church is Missions

Missions is not a part of the church, a program of the church or even a priority of the church. Missions is the purpose of the church on earth. The ultimate purpose of everything, including the church, is the glory of God, and God is glorified when His purposes are accomplished. (Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.) God's purpose for the church on earth is to make disciples. God has called every generation of His followers to reach their generation and to equip the next to do the same.

The work of the church on earth is to 1) *equip*, 2) *send* and 3) *sustain* a global force of disciple makers effectively planting reproducing churches that launch missions movements so that every church is a sending church every nation a sending nation.

Equipping is the task of *training spiritually mature, competently skilled disciple makers* both locally and globally. This is a life long ministry for which God has given spiritually gifted *men* to the church (Ephesians 4:11-16) and a *model* for action (Acts 2:40-47). The church in Jerusalem in Acts 2 provides a model of ministry that effectively equipped new believers to sustain opposition, retain the truth, and launch a church planting movement when scattered due to persecution.

Sending is the task of *getting them there* with the spiritual and financial resources necessary to do the work on the field to which they are sent. The church in Antioch in Acts 13 provides a model of ministry that obediently sent out Paul and Barnabas to launch a major missions movement to unreached territory among the gentiles.

Sustaining is the career long investment of the home churches in the lives of their global staff. The church in Philippi in Acts 16 and in the Epistle to the Philippians provides a model of ministry that encouraged a suffering global servant, sustaining him spiritually, financially and socially. This third element of missions ministry is the focus of this workbook.

Attrition (gradual reduction of a workforce lost through retirement or resignation)

US Based Mission Agencies* report 8% - 11% total annual attrition. These figures include everything: retirement, death, deportation, medical evacuation, continuing education, change to stateside ministry, interpersonal conflict, personal stress, depression and moral failure.)

The reality is that a total turnover of field personnel takes place every 10-12 years. It is estimated that as much as 50% of attrition is preventable. (i.e. not related to age, health, persecution or other unpreventable cause.)

ABWE total attrition has averaged 3% total annual attrition for the past 15 years. While this is somewhat better than the evangelical agency averages, we must not be content. Each percent represents precious lives and families. Each individual and family that returns from the field prematurely for preventable reasons is of major concern. Preventable attrition leaves in its wake hurting people, discouraged servants, burdened co-laborers, confused nationals, disappointed churches, conflicted children, and feelings of failure, guilt, sorrow and anger that must be faced and worked through by God's grace.

The highest percentage of attrition occurs during prefield through mid-second term. Prefield attrition remains steady at about 5% of new appointees.

Figures regarding preventable attrition are more difficult to determine. Apart from moral failure, God's will is the stated reason why missionaries return to their sending country. But there is often a difference between the stated reason and the personal reason that brought them home mid-stream.

The following material is intended to help educate and inform churches and individuals who want to minister effectively to their global staff. It is not intended to make accusation or encourage unconstructive investigation. It is presented with the desire that those who seriously want to minister grace and help to global laborers understand the realities of cross cultural transition and life and provide some direction and advice for launching an improved ministry of sustaining as a home church.

* Information based on current research from a broad range of evangelical agencies and international missions publications. These figures reflect *intentional career appointments* and do not include research on short-term personnel who did not commit to career missions.

Cross cultural ministry is cross-carrying ministry.

Following Christ means becoming a stranger, a sojourner, a pilgrim, a servant.

“Consider Him who faced such opposition...” Hebrews 12:3

What did Jesus face coming to earth from heaven?

Leaving home	Incarnation
Satanic Attack	Wilderness
Co-worker conflicts	Last supper
Co-worker attrition	Judas
Inner conflict, loneliness	Gethsemane
Injustice, rejection	Trials
Agony, suffering	Cross

What did Paul experience in cross cultural ministry?

First term attrition	Acts 13:13	John Mark
Language barriers	Acts 14:14	Lystra
Co-worker conflicts	Acts 15:39	Barnabas
Stress, confusion	2 Cor 4:8	%hard pressedõ confused+
Trouble, conflict, fears	2 Cor 7:5	%no rest, troubled, conflicts, fears+
Tragedy, exhaustion, insomnia	2 Cor 11:23-27	%stoned..stripes..weary..sleepless+
Satanic attack	2 Cor 12:7-10	%messenger of Satan+
Loneliness, heartache	2 Tim 4:9-21	%come before winter+

Our research from reading over 150 first term debriefings from the last decade reveal that God’s global laborers still experience the same things. The following summary is not intended to distress or depress you. It is intended to prepare you to minister to people who are going to experience major and on-going adjustment stress. Knowing what to expect can help you be a better listener and a more understanding friend.

Top 10 Contributing Factors for Early Attrition

1. Loneliness
2. Fears & Uncertainties (safety, personal failure)
3. Team (conflicts, losses, changes)
4. Loss of significance, routine and ~~fit~~+
5. Family conflict, disunity
6. Unfulfilled expectations & dreams
7. Powerlessness & Dependency
8. Cultural differences (slowness to get anything done)
9. Health Stress (fatigue, headaches, depression)
10. Language failure

Top 10 Contributing Factors for Staying

1. Clear call from God
2. Supportive spouse and family
3. Healthy spiritual life and spiritual disciplines
4. Adaptability to new culture & language
5. Good relationships with colleagues
6. Regular supervision and pastoral type care
7. Dependable financial support
8. Ability to cope with stress and workload
9. Contact with friends, church, prayer team at home
10. Good relationships with field leadership and agency

Learning to live a life beyond your control

Living in a world that's out of control brings feelings of helplessness, insecurity, irritation and fear. You're unable to function on your own at first. You're trying to survive.

Used to being	...to...	The new reality of
strong		weak
powerful		dependent
successful		barely surviving
significant		unimportant
competent		incompetent
confident		embarrassed
respected		resented or ignored
influential		irrelevant
problem solver		being a problem
surrounded (caring people)		ignored
ease of movement		stuck
familiar		fearful
predictable life & location		uncertainty
precious possessions		meaningless stuff

This transition is tough for almost everyone, even those who visit the field, know their co-workers and are in an English speaking field.

Think about it. Moving from one region of North America to another is stressful. Family, friends, fitō it's not the same anymore. It takes two to three years to adjust to an in-country move. Moving across the border between the States and Canada, one will experience significant cultural differences.

The process can't be speeded up. It takes time. They need time. You can help.

Warning

Past weaknesses will surface during the stress of cross cultural transition. If someone struggled with anger in the past, they'll struggle again. If one struggled with a bitter spirit, lust, discontent, complaining, comparing, and all the other sinful manifestation of the old nature, expect the temptations to rise up strongly again. You can help.

The Process

Cross cultural transition and adjustment is a process. The stages are real, but not clearly defined. It's a moving target. There is no test to determine exactly where you are. Various aspects of your new life are adjusted to more slowly than others. The benefit of knowing the process is knowing what's normal, *and* that *you* are normal!

Disorientation *Everything is abnormal and different*

Smells, sounds, language, food, money, living quarters, people, co-workers. Nothing is easy or natural. It wears on your mind and emotions. It contributes to fear, impatience, frustration, depression. You can't do anything by yourself. You have moved into a new life of incompetence and dependence. The stress surfaces other temptations that may be shocking in their intensity and duration.

Orientation (longest stage) *Comparing normals*

You are getting used to your new location and situation. You recognize a few words. You are beginning to feel a little safe. You are moving beyond total shock to actually being able to compare the differences without wishing you could quit more than once a day.

Appreciation *Understanding and accepting both normals*

You have moved beyond the "this is interesting" to the "this is dumb" to the "oh, this is why" stage of understanding your culture and its people. There are always reasons people live the way they do. You are discovering, accepting appreciating them in both your host and original culture.

Enculturation *Embracing the new normal*

No longer even thinking about the host culture. You have become so accustomed to it that it feels like home. It's become your new normal, both natural and easy.

Disorientation *Re-entry to North America*

Oh, boy! Here we go again! Everything's changed.



The Church in Philippi

Paul and the church at Philippi had a very close relationship. Paul loved all his churches. But it is evident that this church's response to Paul and his missionary work gave rise to a deep level of mutual trust and love.

This church provided a level of care that went far beyond the material. The involvement and investment went so deep that one church member nearly died to provide a need for Paul. That's serious, sacrificial, sustaining ministry.

Paul felt safe with these folks. He had no fear they were looking for a reason to drop him. They were family forever. The love was mutual. The confidence was unshakable.

How can we, as local churches, demonstrate that we are places of safety, commitment and love for our missionaries? What can a local church do that is both useful and possible within our existing limitations?

The church in Philippi demonstrated three areas of care. We will summarize and give suggestions to help you begin the process of planning, creating and then improving a sustaining ministry to your global family of laborers here and around the world.

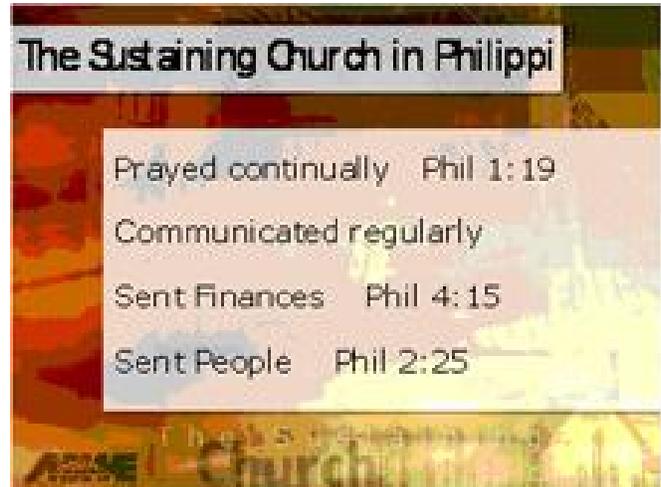
Intercession Phil 1:19-20; Eph 6:18-20; Col 4:2-4; Rom 15:30-32

For I know that this will turn out for my deliverance through your prayer and the supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ (1:19)

Intercessory prayer is absolutely the most important sustaining ministry your church can have. To be effective as intercessors requires a clean heart, a fervent spirit, current information and the continual example of the leadership. The first two are the responsibility of the individual believer. The last are the responsibility of the church. To obtain that information and then to channel it to the entire church body is time consuming, but relatively easy. The importance of intercession requires determined focus and effort from the top.

From the passages above we see Paul's seven prayer requests

1. Deliverance
2. Courage
3. Christ magnified
4. Clarity
5. Opportunity
6. Receptivity
7. Refreshment



Communication

Phil 4:15 Now you Philippians know also that in the beginning of the gospel, when I departed from Macedonia, no church shared with me concerning giving and receiving but you only (ō you sent aid once and again for my necessities.)

Communication is the lifeblood of relationship. The church in Philippi communicated with Paul via E-mailō Epaphroditus, that is. With the advent of e-tech, communication has never been easier or faster. Being able to communicate regularly, repeatedly and immediately is a tremendous opportunity to encourage and edify your missionary families. However, possibility and actuality are not the same. While all *can* communicate, the reality is that few churches communicate with their missionaries with any regularity.

On the other hand, while you can and should communicate, being considerate and truly helpful requires moderation and wisdom. Avoid the temptation of sending %forwards+via email. It wastes time and money, and some missionaries have to pay for each email they download. Eliminate long address lists in your correspondence, and reduce the size of your files as many are using dial-up or satellite systems that are very slow.

A monthly letter from the pastor is always eagerly received. Real letters, as well as signed cards, mean so much. Do not undervalue the benefit of a hand written card or letter. Blue ink on paper says %love+louder than a one sentence email.

Communication is a two way street. The local church can lead the way in demonstrating the value and benefit of communication by example. Your church family will probably need to be trained and assisted in this aspect of sustaining ministry. It, along with intercession, holds the greatest potential for the greatest personal involvement in sustaining ministry.



Resources

Phil 2:25 Yet I considered it necessary to send to you Epaphroditus, my brother, fellow worker, and fellow soldier, but your messenger and the one who ministered to my need

Missionaries are in continual need of financial, spiritual and personnel resources to fulfill the ministry you sent them to do. Communication makes the needs known. Intercession will provide the wisdom as to what you should do and how.

The church in Philippi sent money. But they sent it by the hand of a hard-working fellow laborer named Epaphroditus. This church member was a tremendous encouragement to Paul. Paul was so delighted in this brother's presence and spiritual support that he was loath to send him back home. Resourcing is more than sending a work team. It certainly includes work teams and project participation. But even more necessary is the mutual spiritual encouragement that comes from true spiritual fellowship and times together in the Word and prayer. If we become aware of the needs, and care enough to participate, God will surely open yet-unseen doors of opportunity to use you to provide resources to make your missionaries even more effective as time goes on.

(Compare also 3 John 5-8)



Rembrandt's 'The Apostle Paul'

IDEAS AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR SUSTAINING MINISTRY

EDUCATION

POWERPOINT FOR PRE-POST SERVICE VIEWING: Create a PowerPoint for pre/post service projection on your screen(s) or lobby display that would highlight faces, names, locations, ministries, and most recent prayer requests. Keep it simple . Big picture, location, 1 or 2 urgent prayer requests. I would suggest you find some teens that would be willing to put it together based on the information you or the missions committee would supply. Update monthly. Put on scrolling timed display. What we publicize is what's important to us.

MEET YOUR MISSIONARIES BOOKLET: We created a booklet ourselves, (folded half size using standard paper folded into a booklet with landscape layout) same info as the plaques (see below). It contains a picture on the left side and their info on the right. We printed these and distributed at the missions conference and made them available in the foyer all the time.

PLAQUES: Plaques to rotate in ABF and children's classes. Wal-Mart has attractive, inexpensive wood back - plexiglas covered plaques. In the frame use a 5x7 picture (ask missionaries to send picture via email or scan prayer card and "fix it" for your purposes in Photoshop.) and a card with pertinent info - family names, ages, agency, field, ministry and *very* brief testimony. At our monthly missions meeting we moved them room to room in an orderly rotation. Place some in the foyer, library, hall, everywhere. No matter where you walk in the building you were running into a plaque with a missionary. Heritage Baptist in Lynchburg has a running border along the top of the walls in every hall way that has the names of countries (all 246 listed by the UN). It's impressive and keeps your mind on the mission. The walls are full of posters, pictures, curios, clothing, etc. of other countries.

ABF & SUNDAY SCHOOL: We rotated plaques for the first Sunday of each month. We put the most recent prayer letter on the teacher's podium or chair and a request instructing them to highlight these missionaries (point to plaque or even pass the plaque around the room) and start each class in prayer for these missionaries every Sunday. The first Sunday would be a longer introduction. Praying for missionaries by name and by need will become habitual.

INTERCESSION

PRAYER REMINDER SUMMARY: We had one individual who would read all the prayer letters and create a monthly update that listed all the missionaries and their most recent requests - VERY BRIEF. This is a lot of work but so very effective and important.

PRAYER COMMITMENT CARDS: We asked our families to take on a prayer commitment for one year to commit to pray for a missionary every day for the next year, to stay informed by reading their prayer letter, getting on the email prayer chain for missions. We used little tear off duplicate cards we had printed professionally, so we could send one copy to the missionary to let them know who in our church family were their prayer warriors for the coming year. We waited 4 weeks for all the commitments to come in. We put them in the church bulletin as well as on a display and made announcements for three Sundays in all services to make sure folks were challenged to take up the weapon of prayer for at least one family - preferably two or three.

PUBLIC PRAYER: Every service includes prayer for missionaries; two or three most urgent requests for missionaries and also pleading for God to send out more laborers. This needs to be habitual. *What matters in the pulpit will matter in the pew.*

E-PRAYER CHAIN: Prayer letters are forwarded to specific individuals who sign up every six months to be on the e-chain list. One individual takes responsibility of editing the lists and forwarding all e-prayer letters. Missionaries in restricted access countries are not included in any forwards. These missionaries letters are hand delivered at church to the prayer partners to protect confidentiality. Last names, agency names, etc. are removed, as well.

Phil 1:19-20; Eph 6:18-20; Col 4:2-4; Rom 15:30-32 Prayer Requests

Deliverance

Christ magnified

Boldness, courage

Right words, clear message, open doors

Acceptable ministry, receptivity

Safe travels

Spiritual refreshment

COMUNICATION

THE PASTOR'S MONTHLY UPDATE: I sent out a monthly prayer letter to all our missionaries, college students and military personnel. This allowed me to update them on people, events and needs as well as our own personal family update. I shared of folks recently saved and baptized, new ministries launched, youth and children's ministries, people we were witnessing to, special prayer concerns, and up-coming events in the life of the church. This is a way to keep connected on both a personal and church level. It also allowed for a brief exhortation and information on books I recently read and present sermon series. I also offered to send them books or tapes upon request.

THE ROPE HOLDERS LETTER MINISTRY: We put blank cards, all addressed with postage, on clips on a bulletin board in the foyer. We also included the most recent prayer letter and initially a little sheet I wrote up on "what to write to a missionary" - including introduce yourself if you don't know them well, include a wallet size photo of your family, share your testimony briefly, share what you do and what your ministry at church is, share a verse that is special to you, share a prayer request, and let them know you are praying for them, mentioning a specific prayer request from their prayer letter. Let them know they don't need to write back, that you are just concerned that they know you are praying for them.

We did three cards per missionary family per month, plus anniversaries and birthdays. Early on we made announcements in ABFs, Prayer Meeting, and Sunday services to explain the purpose over and over again. It took about 5 months for it to really catch on, then it resulted in a landslide of participation and our missionaries were so encouraged.

CHURCH DIRECTORIES AND ANNUAL REPORTS: We included all our missionary families in the church directory and mailed a copy to each missionary family as well. This also served to help them see faces of people referred to in other correspondence. We also mailed them our annual ministry report. Since we view them as part of our global staff, we sought ways to keep them abreast of church life back home.

PHONE CALLS OF ENCOURAGEMENT: At our monthly missions committee meeting, phone calls were made to various missionaries and assignments for encouragement calls during the week. Calls were designed to prove our personal love and concern. Read recent letters before the call for names of family members and pertinent questions. It need not be lengthy to be deeply appreciated. Vonage and Skype make it easy and inexpensive to connect.

RESOURCES

ADOPT A MISSIONARY: ABF classes adopt a missionary. They focus on caring for one or two particular missionary families. This can be a one-year or one-term commitment for the ABF or class. They send around a card once a month for the class to sign. They also participate in projects as a class for the missionary and give special effort to minister to them while on furlough. They lead the hospitality and project effort when the missionary comes to report.

CARE TEAMS: Similar to the ABF Adopt a Missionary concept, but more formal and focused. It is a detailed list of responsibilities that would be laid out by the missions committee and committee members could take the lead in recruiting teams. Four couples or a total of 8 on the team is sufficient. It would include monthly prayer gathering, correspondence, high-lighting needs, hosting when home, locating housing, vehicle, suggesting projects to the committee, assisting with locating a vehicle for furlough, and any other practical needs. They need to be proactive and focused on encouragement and assistance. They provide meals and housing when the missionary visits, set up home group meetings, etc. See Heritage Baptist Church of Lynchburg, VA and Missions Pastor Alan Waldrop for complete explanation. Also, Brad Winkler, Prefield Director of ABWE.

MISSIONS CLOSET: It takes work to keep the missionary closet from becoming a junk closet. We allowed only new items, and removed anything not taken within four years. We had one closet for men and one for women and children. We included DVDs, books, tools, music, toys, etc. In recent years we moved to Wal-Mart and other trade store and restaurant gift cards. This allows the missionaries to get exactly what they need. Be aware of expiration dates on the cards. You could even build into your budget for \$100, \$50 and \$25 gift cards to be purchased the week before the missionary arrives. They can then be given in a lovely card signed by the missions committee. Some may even want to give separate cards for each member of the family.

SERMONS & WORSHIP SERVICES: Many missionaries have little or no access to in-depth bible teaching on the field. Sending CDs, MP3s or tapes of sermons series or DVD of entire worship services can be such a blessing.

BOOKS AND MAGAZINES: If it blesses you, then bless them too! Ask first. Some places pay heavy duty or import fees on books. Call, write or email and see if they have the book or magazine you're excited about and see if they want a copy of subscription. Find out who is traveling over soon and ask if they could take it as a gift. Devotional material, study guides, children's books and more are often deeply appreciated. As with other resources, ask first and find out what they would really enjoy before you send it.

RETREATS AND CONFERENCES: Either on the field or back in North America, there are special opportunities for retreats and conferences. Often it is a financial matter that keeps missionaries from participating. See if such an opportunity is available and appreciated and mobilize the church to make it a reality. We all need refreshment and renewal. You may need to press the issue for some who need it most!

PASTORAL VISITS: A well timed visit by a home church pastor can be exactly what's needed in a difficult time. The visit needs to be well timed and defined as a pastoral visit, not another sight-seeing trip. Missionaries are often expected to be tourist consultants and provide transportation and translation services. What is really needed is a time to slow down and talk and listen and pray and listen and cry and listen and laugh and listen. Did I mention listening? Go with an open ear and an open heart and an open Bible and let God use you to really encourage and build up your global co-workers and their families.

MEN FOR MISSIONS AND OTHER SHORT TERM TEAMS: Plan well ahead and prioritize your projects. This requires extensive communication and planning to make the project worthwhile for both the missionary and the team. Including a special devotional guide and directed bible study and daily debriefing will multiply the effectiveness of the trip.

CARE PACKAGES: Christmas, Thanksgiving, Christmas in July, Birthdays - especially for MKs. Another great time for a care package is when an MK comes home for college. Reaching out to them this first year home is critical. They need a lot of encouragement and support during these lonely, difficult days of adjustment.

CRAZY YOUTH DVD: Youth group did a crazy video and sent to all our MKs. The kids told their names and what they liked to do, showed clips of youth worship, retreats, VBS, all nighters; little excerpts... fast moving... fun. Ended with the youth pastor sharing an encouraging word and all the kids yelling and waving "We love you"! The kids sign a card and

enclosed the DVD and air-mailed it to each MK family. If more than one MK (ages 12-17), each one got a separate card, but one DVD per family.

RESOURCES: This is not a blanket endorsement of any ministry listed below. They are broader in fellowship and doctrine than ABWE. However, there are beneficial articles and resources available therein. These are offered with the expectation that spiritually mature and doctrinally grounded leaders will be able to discern what is beneficial and reject what is not.

Serving As Senders

<http://www.missionsresources.com/product/290.htm>

www.womenoftheharvest.com

www.brigada.org

amongworlds@interactionintl.org

www.heartstreamresources.org

www.mislinks.org/practical/membcare.htm

<http://openhearts.gospelcom.net/>

Alter Adapt Adopt

As you consider *your church's* opportunities and obligations in the three areas of sustaining ministry, evaluate the following:

What are we presently doing in the area of INTERCESSION?

What are we presently doing in the area of COMMUNICATION?

What are we presently doing in the area of RESOURCING?

Evaluate your strengths, weaknesses, possibilities and priorities in sustaining

What needs to be improved?

What needs to be initiated?

BEST PRACTICE IDEAS

As a result of your discussions and brainstorming sessions, take away three best practice+ideas that would make a significant impact on your global staff if implemented.

1

2

3

Lay out a three year plan to implement sustaining ministry progress based on your priorities and possibilities.

Year 1

Year 2

Year 3

APPENDIX: SUSTAINING IDEAS AND RESOURCES

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PROMOTING THE MAIN THING IN YOUR CHURCH! World Missions Resource

The preacher of an average-sized church was overheard saying, "It would take a stick of dynamite to shake up the people of my congregation!" Perhaps, but we think there is a better way than blasting powder. Below are twenty ways to shake up the status quo of your church and make members more conscious of the world in which they exist.

1. Pray for your missionaries by name at each service.
2. Plan an annual Missions Weekend or longer conference. Select missionary speakers with a definite focus and challenge to the congregation to respond in a specific way as a result of the conference.
3. During your missions conference, conduct an all-night prayer service, mentioning every missionary by name and praying specifically for each nation of the world. Pray for one continent at a time with short films or talks separating the prayer sessions. Pray as one group or break up into smaller groups for some of the sessions. Try some of these suggestions for a period of time and you will discover that your congregation is coming alive to the mission of God!
4. Hang large flags in the foyer of the church building for every country in which you support a missionary. Miniature flags can be purchased for families to place in their homes as a reminder to pray for the people represented by the flags (Frontier Flags, P.O. Box 176, Branson, Missouri 65616; telephone 417-334-1776).
5. Begin praying daily for God to send out a missionary family from your church. (Or the next one, if you're already a sending church)
6. Seek to support all new missionaries for 10% of their support needs as a supporting church. Seek to provide up to 50% of the support of your own missionaries as a sending church. Provide travel funds, working funds or resources for a special project such as the cost of printing a tract, broadcasting a radio program or conducting an evangelistic campaign. Churches of all sizes can do something in world missions.
7. Devote an entire page in the church directory to each missionary you help to support. Include a map, photographs and a brief description of his or her work.
8. Place a large, attractive map at the front of the auditorium. Near it, in lettering large

enough to be seen clearly from the back, place an appropriate scripture passage or a phrase such as "Into all the world" or "All authority...all nations...all things"

9. Create MISSIONARY PLAQUES with full color pictures & ministry descriptions & names clearly visible. Rotate them around the church every month. Use the classrooms and halls for displaying maps, flags, bulletin board posters, pictures and curios from the field. Always keep something of a missionary nature on display.

10. Subscribe to World Digest or some other church bulletin insert featuring a summary of missionary news from around the world.

11. Schedule missionaries in one major service every month. Keep continual exposure to missions a priority. Keep the missionaries continually before your young children, to. They are the next generation of laborers.

12. Send your pastor on a missions trip every year.

13. Buy your elders and preaching staff one good book on missions every year. (John Piper, "Let the Nations be Glad" is a great place to start! Also, see ABWE Website for resources. www.abwe.org)

14. Have a few moments for missions at the beginning of every Bible class, from kindergarten to adult. Include news from the field, prayer, information on the region, spiritual needs there. (Your missions committee members can give the updates)

15. Include one lesson on missions in all Bible classes at least every six months. Teach on missions for an entire quarter every three years. This means that a student would study world outreach during four quarters by the end of high school.

16. Work towards applying 30% of your budget to missions and evangelism.

17. Balance your congregation's outreach between (1) stateside, within your own culture, (2) stateside, outside your own culture, and (3) foreign cross-cultural. If possible, engage in some of all three of these levels continually.

18. Organize/reorganize a missions committee that will accept responsibility for promoting missions, communicating with your missionaries, determining policies and making important decisions. They should screen and promote all short term and career personnel. A monthly intensive time of prayer and information is a must.

19. Conduct four or more local evangelistic efforts each year to bring the Gospel directly to those living within a ten-mile radius of your church building. Missions is near as well as far. Model it! Seek target interest groups. Be creative. Target men, women, kids, sports interests, etc...

20. Encourage the staff and leaders to conduct home evangelistic Bible studies and urge each one to set an evangelistic example by bringing, with God's help, at least one person to Christ per year. Encourage the congregation to follow the example set by her leaders.

□ Promotion – Advertising

- Getting people's attention
- Developing enthusiasm

□ Awareness – Letting people know what is going on

- How the world is changing
- What God is doing...Where Christianity is progressing
- Where Christians are hurting
- What the great needs and barriers are
- What our denomination, agencies and missionaries are doing
- What new strategies and avenues of ministry are

□ Education – The basics of missions

- Biblical instruction
- Missions history and missionary heroes of the past
- Global status and recent big changes
- Geography, peoples and countries
- Strategies
- Culture

□ Intensive and Extensive Communication . Providing for in-depth exposure and also keeping missions in view everywhere

□ Missions Events . Doing conferences, special emphases and activities

□ The Profile of Missions - Giving missions a high level of visibility in the church

□ The Image of Missions . Giving missions a contemporary, relevant, significant look

□ Presenting Missions in Contemporary Services

□ Communicating Missions through Worship

□ Integrating Missions . Making missions a natural part of every ministry, age group, and interest level

□ Communicating across Generations

□ Becoming Aware of attitudes, feelings, experience, and knowledge about missions

□ Contextualizing - Helping missionaries and missions speakers communicate effectively to our people

Excerpted with permission of David Mays (ACMC) from his **Handbook of Lists+within 500 Things You Need to Know About Doing Missions in Your Church.**

Contact www.acmc.org or www.davidmays.org for more information on this source.

101 PRAYER REQUESTS for the SPIRITUAL WELFARE of OTHERS

☞The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.+ (James 5:16b)

Anonymously came across my desk

- 1...love God with all their heart, soul, mind, and strength
- 2ō present their body a living sacrifice acceptable to God
- 3ō walk humbly with God
- 4ō be an imitator of God
- 5ō submit to God
- 6ō humble themselves in the presence of the Lord
- 7ō know Christ and the power of His resurrection
- 8ō please Christ in all aspects
- 9ō be rooted and firmly built up in Christ
- 10ō abide in Christ
- 11ō fix their eyes on Jesus
- 12ō not grieve the Holy Spirit
- 13ō live by faith
- 14ō walk by the Spirit
- 15ō walk in a manner worthy of their calling
- 16ō walk no longer in the futility of the mind
- 17ō lay aside the old self and put on a new self
- 18ō evidence the fruit of the Spirit
- 19ō walk in love
- 20ō conduct themselves in a manner worthy of the gospel
- 21ō pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, perseverance, and gentleness
- 22ō be rooted and grounded in love
- 23ō be transformed by the renewing of their mind
- 24ō not think more highly of themselves than they ought to think
- 25ō think on things that are pure, true, honorable, just, right, and praiseworthy
- 26ō set their mind on things above
- 27ō take every thought captive to the obedience of Christ
- 28ō not be conformed to this world
- 29ō abhor what is evil
- 30ō not carry out the desire of the flesh
- 31ō not allow any immorality, impurity, or greed to be named among them
- 32ō put away all bitterness, wrath, anger, malice, and slander
- 33ō not participate in the unfruitful deeds of darkness
- 34ō consider themselves dead to immorality, impurity and greed
- 35ō resist the devil
- 36ō not practice sin
- 37ō not love the world or the things of the world
- 38ō not give the devil a foothold nor opportunity in their life
- 39ō do nothing from selfishness or conceit
- 40ō put no confidence in the flesh
- 41ō love their neighbor as they do themselves
- 42ō be devoted to others in brotherly love
- 43ō contribute to the needs of the saints
- 44ō practice hospitality
- 45ō bear others' burdens
- 46ō show patience and forbearance to others
- 47ō be kind to others, tenderhearted and forgiving
- 48ō teach and admonish others
- 49ō share with those who have needs

- 50ō regard others as more important than themselves
- 51ō stimulate others to love and good works
- 52ō bless those who persecute them
- 53ō rejoice with those who rejoice
- 54ō weep with those who weep
- 55ō not envy others
- 56ō be diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit
- 57ō speak the truth in love
- 58ō let no unwholesome word proceed out of your mouth
- 59ō allow no filthiness or coarse jesting to come out of the mouth
- 60ō lay aside falsehood and speak truth
- 61ō do all things without grumbling and complaining
- 62ō bridle the tongue
- 63ō not complain
- 64ō have the Word of Christ richly dwell in them
- 65ō be doers of the Word
- 66ō look into the Word
- 67ō meditate on the Word day and night
- 68ō hide God's Word in their hearts
- 69ō keep Christ's commandments
- 70ō live in harmony with their spouse
- 71ō love their wife
- 72ō submit to their husband
- 73ō raise children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord
- 74ō speak the mystery of Christ as God opens the door
- 75ō be bold in their witness
- 76ō conduct themselves in wisdom toward unbelievers
- 77ō persevere in tribulation
- 78ō always give thanks for all things
- 79ō be anxious for nothing
- 80ō consider it joy when they encounter trials
- 81ō be content in whatever circumstances they are in
- 82ō be devoted to prayer
- 83ō have a spirit of wisdom
- 84ō be strengthened in their inner person
- 85ō expose the deeds of darkness
- 86ō abound more and more in knowledge and discernment with love
- 87ō evidence fruitful labor
- 88ō rejoice in the Lord always
- 89ō count all things to be loss compared to Christ
- 90ō be filled with the knowledge of God's will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding
- 91ō bear fruit in every good work and increase in the knowledge of God
- 92ō be strengthened with all power
- 93ō be overflowing with gratitude
- 94ō put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, patience, and gentleness
- 95ō have the peace of Christ rule in their heart
- 96ō do their work heartily as to the Lord
- 97ō be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger
- 98ō put on the full armor of God
- 99ō lay up for themselves treasure in Heaven
- 100ō have the words of their mouth and the meditation of their heart acceptable to God
- 101ō run with endurance the race set before them

Have you hugged an MK Today?

How to "hug" an MK long distance (for those on the field):

- Send a letter, card, or email (cheery, newsy, friendly).
- Send them a magazine subscription.... Ask what they would like.
- Send them American treats.... M and M's, Kool Aid, chocolate chips, seasonal candies, or tapes and CDs.
- Send birthday and Christmas cards.
- Ask what hobbies they are interested in and send related packages.
- Find someone their age here to be a pen pal to them.
- Send them personal money for a special treat.
- Above all, PRAY for their specific needs (ask them how you should pray for them and then ask them how the Lord has answered).

How to "hug" an MK on furlough:

- Take them shopping to pick out some new clothes. Pack a gift package of fun things for them to play with in the car.
- Greet them personally- Talk to them, rather than just their parents.
- Arrange for them to meet some other kids their age. Do something fun with them together.
- Sensitize youth leaders to help MKs fit in to the youth group and not emphasize their differences.
- Don't expect every MK to participate publicly in meetings. Involve them in non-threatening ways.
- Let them blend and keep a balance. Don't do special things for them all year. Don't spoil them.

How to "hug" an MK in college:

- Understand their need to blend.
- Give them financial and practical help- how to buy a car, open a bank account, shop for sharp clothes, apply for a job.
- Don't focus undo attention on them. Try to make them feel comfort-able without doing anything to embarrass them.
- Provide for relaxed MK fellowship- invite them into your home. Invite them to stay over college breaks, holidays or summer vacation.
- Encourage them to get involved in a good local church. This is very important to produce stability, continuity, security and a sense of belonging in the body of Christ.
- Include them as a member of your family when you are going somewhere special.
- Give them a phone card to call their friends and their parents if possible.
- Don't put them on pedestals (thinking they are super spiritual) OR expect them to be rebellious and negative.
- Above all, PRAY for them....and let them know you care and are praying.

What Can We Do To Relate To and Care For Missionary Women?

BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS WITH YOUR MISSIONARY WOMEN

Get to know your missionary woman.

Read her prayer letters and emails.

Read up on the country in which she lives. (check out www.abwe.org)

Visit her field, if possible, and if workable for her.

When she is in your home, ask questions and listen a lot!

Spend time with her. Have her over for coffee or a meal.

Pray for your missionary woman

Pray for her every day. Choose a time that you will devote to praying for her. .

Gather a small group to pray for her once a month.

If she desires a prayer partner, volunteer.

Read her prayer letters to know how to pray for her.

Let her know you are praying for her.

Pray for a person with whom she is sharing Christ.

Pray for the country in which she works.

Correspond with your missionary woman.

Pick a day of the month to be your correspondence ministry day. (You'd never know how key this is!)

Write her and tell her about yourself and your current situation.

Let her know she does not need to write back. (She probably is already overloaded with necessary correspondence.)

Keep her in the loop of your church happenings back home.

Send her newspaper/ magazine articles. (Be careful in limited access countries)

Send at least one card a month; birthday cards, Christmas cards, etc.

Make your missionary woman a part of your church.

Disseminate information, prayer letters, etc., from your missionary women to your whole church.

Encourage your Bible Study, Adult Bible Fellowship, Sunday school class, small group, Mothers of Preschoolers (MOPS) group, children's class, etc. to adopt her.

Send her your church newsletter. (Again, caution about limited access countries)

Invite her to be a part of your small group when she is home on assignment.

Provide funds as a church or a women's group for her to attend your women's retreat when she's home.

Provide resources for her spiritual growth and ministry

Send tapes of your pastor's messages.

Send other teaching tape series, video series, CDs

Send copies of a Bible Study that has been helpful to you.

Provide funds to help her attend a women's conference/ retreat when she is on home assignment.

Ask her what books would be helpful to her. Send her copies of these.

Send her a subscription to *Women of the Harvest* or *Just Between Us*.

Send videos or tapes of your church ladies retreat. Video a personal greeting at the end.

Become aware of the areas of spiritual gifting through which your missionary woman ministers most effectively.

Then, seek as a women's ministries group, to provide helpful resources to enrich and facilitate your missionary woman's areas of strength as she serves in the field.

Provide general resources for the encouragement of your mission woman

Send cards of encouragement from women at your church, at a retreat, or in your small group.

(Check with her to see what she can receive without paying a customs tax).

Send fun magazine subscriptions, books, tapes, CDs, or videos. (Find out what she already has).

Send a birthday and/or Christmas gift.

Send a gift or monetary gift for no special occasion.

Send a care package for entertaining: pretty napkins, paper plates, special coffees/teas, etc.

Serve as a personal shopper for her.

Be a book buddy. Send her some books you have enjoyed.

Volunteer to run off and mail her prayer letter.

Send a general care package. (Ask first what she could use and what can be sent her in the country in which she works.)

Caring for her family

Pray for those in her family for whom she asks prayer.

Send care packages to her stateside college/career age children

Send care packages to her children still living at home.

Open your home to local, college MKs for holiday meals, short school breaks, etc., especially if you live in the area of a Christian college where many MKs may be attending.

Make her feel welcome

Meet her and her family at the airport.

Clean the home in which she will live, prior to her arrival.

Review her recent prayer letters so you know what has been happening in her life.

Invite her to be a part of your Bible Study, small group, etc.

Enlist age-appropriate children to help show her children around church and help them meet others

If she has children in junior or senior high, tell your church youth workers about them before they arrive so they can be welcomed.

Invite her and her family for a meal or take them out to dinner.

If she has children the same ages as your children, invite them to do something fun with you.

Help provide physical needs

Help arrange for a car which is in good running order and sufficient size for her family.

Help arrange for a home in which she and her family can live.

Help her furnish her home with furniture, dishes, pans, etc.

Stock the home with staples and necessary household items.

Have a ~~p~~ounding+for her: i.e., provide a pound of sugar, flour, spices, etc.

Have a shower for her- household, personal, baby, ministry, etc.

Take her shopping for some new clothing.

If you have a membership at Sam's Club, Costco, or some other discount warehouse store, offer to take her there so he can buy needed items in bulk and at reduced prices.

Provide either handmade small gifts or purchased ones that the missionary can use to present when she is a guest on the field. (Some cultures expect an invited guest to bring a gift when she comes for a meal or coffee).

Help her get settled in her community as she returns for furlough or home assignment

Take her around the community to get to know shops, schools, etc.

Give her a list of recommended doctors, dentists, optometrists, auto mechanics, etc.

Offer to make telephone calls for her in advance of her home assignment (six months or earlier) to set up medical and dental appointments for her and her family.

Set up an appointment with your pastor and missions committee for her or her husband to meet with them.

Help meet other needs

Volunteer to baby-sit so she can have some adult conversation with her husband or friends.

Treat her family to a night or weekend away somewhere fun or to an amusement park, concert, game, etc.

Encourage women in the church to provide the means for a retreat or woman's conference.

Offer to assist with photography for new prayer cards

Offer help with PowerPoint presentations or other special technical needs

Correspondence Guidelines

Do not forward email stuff! *It often costs them for every email received. Keep it personal only.* Remember, you are one of many who may be writing your missionary woman. She is probably quite busy between the demands of daily life and her ministry responsibilities. Therefore, do not put expectations on her to respond immediately, regularly, or in great detail.

If you need some information from her, use her email address, if possible. This may be a more convenient means of communicating for her.

Let Ephesians 5:19 and Ephesians 4:29 be your guides as you write. %Speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody with your heart to the Lord+(Ephesians 5:19). %Let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth, but only such a word as is good for edification according to the need of the moment, so that it will give grace to those who hear+(Ephesians 4:29).

Allow your missionary woman to get to know you. Share about yourself and family. Keep your missionary woman informed as to what is happening in your church, particularly if it is her home church.

Do not ask your missionary woman for information you can get elsewhere, i.e. in her prayer letters, ABWE Web Site, Message Magazines, other WEB sources.

Your letter need not be long. Short notes can also be extremely encouraging since she knows that you are remembering her.

If your missionary woman is in a creative access country, **YOU MUST FOLLOW THE SECURITY GUIDELINES** for communication to her. Her prayer letters will probably give this information. For more information on this, contact ABWE.