

## **Becoming Partners with your Missionaries**

Pray about missions: around the world, each continent, missionaries your church supports, one specific missionary family. Use Philippians 1:9-11 to pray for your missionaries:

That your love may abound more and more in knowledge and in all judgment;

That you may approve things that are excellent;

That you may be sincere and without offence;

Being filled with the fruits of righteousness;

Unto the glory and praise of God.

Provide financial, material or volunteer support. Ask the missionary what is needed for their ministry. Use the resources God has entrusted you with to help their ministry.

Display missionary items in the church and in the homes of church members: world maps, pictures of missionary families, prayer letters, prayer cards, posters, banners, flags.

Organize a mission's notebook with information about missionaries and their ministries. Have the notebook available for review by church members.

Include mission's information in your church bulletin or newsletter.

Mail your church bulletins and newsletter to your missionaries.

Invite missionaries to visit your church and present their ministry. During their visit, have church families host them in their homes, particularly families with children. Young lives are often influenced towards a life of full-time service by talking with missionaries.

When missionaries visit your church services, make them feel welcome. Have members greet them. Provide space for a table display if needed.

Invite missionaries to attend special functions at your church such as holiday programs, retreats, game nights, parties or other activities where they can enjoy the fellowship. Host them as guests, not as speakers or presenters.

When missionaries visit, offer to fill their car with gas, or provide an oil change or other car services. Ask them what is needed and give a price range; *"we have \$300 set aside to help with your car expenses."*

Write or email your missionaries to learn more about their work. Tell them how God is working in your ministry, and express interest in their work. Have your children write letters to the missionaries, and include drawings.

Encourage church families to adopt a missionary family by learning more about them and their ministry, including specific prayer requests and material needs. Have them write the missionary and share prayer requests and testimonies.

Determine items that cannot be obtained on the field, and send those items to help their ministry. Check with the missionary about packaging and duty charges.

Collect canned goods, household supplies, office supplies, or stamps for the missionary family. Encourage your whole church to contribute.

Collect funds for their ministry or personal use. Involve the whole church in gathering coins or dollar bills leading up to the visit; make it a contest. Or, take a special offering during the missionary visit. Make it clear if the offering is for ministry or personal use.

Provide a missionary cupboard, stocked with needed items for the field or for furlough, and provide a time for visiting missionaries to select items for their use. The missionary cupboard can include:

Gas cards	Shampoo
Phone cards	Soap
Stamps	Razors
Restaurant gift certificates	Toothpaste
	Deodorant
Hand Tools	Baby items
Jumper cables	Umbrellas
Motor Oil	Garment bags
Windshield Washer Solvent	Gloves
Extension cords	Cosmetics
Light bulbs	Seeds
Flashlights	Wallets
Batteries	Combs
Knives	
Scissors	Kitchen utensils
Rope, twine, string	Cleanser
Paint brushes	Clothesline and pins
Duct tape	Plastic hangers
Staple gun	Linen Items
	Ziplock bags
Haircutting set	
Eyeglass repair kit	Office supplies
Shoe shine kit	Books
Sewing items	How-To books
Alarm clock	Teaching aides
Medicines	Stickers
Water purification kit	Tapes or CD's for the car
Stapler	Song books
Snake-bite kit	Balloons
Glue	Stickers
	Tissues
	Games for children.