

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
Phone cards
Stamps
Restaurant gift certificates

Hand Tools
Jumper cables
Motor Oil
Windshield Washer Solvent
Extension cords
Light bulbs
Flashlights
Batteries
Knives
Scissors
Rope, twine, string
Paint brushes
Duct tape
Staple gun

Haircutting set
Eyeglass repair kit
Shoe shine kit
Sewing items
Alarm clock
Medicines
Water purification kit
Stapler
Snake-bite kit
Glue

Shampoo
Soap
Razors
Toothpaste
Deodorant
Baby items
Umbrellas
Garment bags
Gloves
Cosmetics
Seeds
Wallets
Combs

Kitchen utensils
Cleanser
Clothesline and pins
Plastic hangers
Linen Items
Ziplock bags

Office supplies
Books
How-To books
Teaching aides
Stickers
Tapes or CD's for the car
Song books
Balloons
Stickers
Tissues
Games for children.