

## Expanded Principles and Considerations for *Senders*

1. **Prayer** – There are a multitude of things that prayer can be applied to on behalf of a missionary.
  - These are just suggestions for areas of need in a missionary's life. This is far better than only praying: "Lord, bless our missionary."
    - Adjusting to culture.
    - Physical, health, emotional, and spiritual protection.
    - Individual needs.
    - Loneliness and need for fellowship.
    - Interpersonal relationships.
    - Effectiveness in ministry.
    - Functioning of tools of ministry.
    - Lack of visible results.
    - People being ministered to.
    - Need for wisdom, discernment, and compassion.
    - Need for boldness, power, and love.
  - One of the best things you can do is ask the missionary to help guide you in areas in which they need prayer.
    - Print and distribute these requests for people to pray over.
  - Practice makes perfect and here are some Scripture prayer models that we can follow.
    - Often, it's good just to pray the Word over missionaries on a consistent basis. These are good suggestions.
    - **Colossians 1:9-13.**
    - **Ephesians 1:16-22.**
    - **Ezekiel 22:30.**
  - **Practical applications of prayer:**
    - In addition to praying for the missionary, ask the Lord to call others into ministry (both those who go and those who will help to send).
    - Pray not only for the missionary, but for those to whom they are ministering.
    - Pray faithfully.
    - Pray persistently.
    - Prayer and Fasting is essential.
    - Pray for more workers **Matthew 9:35-38.**
    - Pray for entrance of the Gospel **Col 4:3.**
    - Bind the enemy **1 Corinthians 16:9; Matthew 18:18; 1 John 3:8.**
    - For His Kingdom to come **Luke 11:2; Jeremiah 4:3; Matthew 13:3-9; 1 Cor 3:6.**
  - Ask yourself: "What have I learned that can specifically help me to be better at praying for missionaries? What am I going to do to make that happen?"

2. **Financial support** – Financial support is key! It is not the only element, but the KEY element for sustaining a missionary on the field.
- “Wartime Lifestyle” – remember we’re in a battle for souls. What if you lived with less in order to give more to those on the front lines?
  - God cares more about extending His Kingdom than our comfort – this is often not something we consider.
  - Sufficient financial support is an important element for sustaining a missionary on the field.
  - Here are some key Scriptures:
    - **Deuteronomy 8:17-18**
    - **Psalms 67:1-2**
    - **Acts 11:29**
    - **2 Corinthians 8:12** and **9:7**
  - Emphasize faithfulness in giving. Many missionaries have people who get them to the field but give up on their support once they’re there. Missionaries need FAITHFUL supporters.
3. **Practical help** – Missionaries are not different than anyone else in having multiple aspects of personal life with which to deal/manage. Become involved.
- Practical Helpers – require a conscientious approach.
  - These qualifications should be considered by people in church leadership to help missionaries find people who can help. These people need to be in good communication with the missionaries.
  - Ask yourself: “Am I one who can help missionaries in practical ways? How? How can I help bring others into this ministry?”
    - Diligence.
    - Concern for details.
    - Timely responses.
    - Sound business practices.
    - These all help bring peace of mind for the missionary and family.
  - Missionaries are no different than anyone else in having multiple aspects of personal life with which to deal and manage.
    - **2 Timothy 4:13**
    - Missionaries need someone who will help them deal with many practical issues while they’re gone.
    - Look for practical ways to help them.
    - Make sure if you give them something, it’s something they can use and can take with them.

#### 4. **Provide Encouragement**

##### ➤ **Foundations of Encouragement**

- Jesus is our example – read these scriptures: **John 8:1–11; 21:15–18; 20:21**
- Remember the simplicity of encouragement. Just encourage:
  - A “one step at a time” mentality, not the ability to “do it all.”
  - “Go on -- just do it! Keep going one step at a time!”
- Encourage a “wartime lifestyle” – priorities of people change when there is peace or war. People are willing to sacrifice and do much more if they realize they’re at war with a real enemy!
- For the Goer: **Joshua 1:9**
- For the Sender: **Romans 12:8**
- God gives a ministry gift of encouragement to some, but ALL can become encouragers.
- Avoid all forms of discouraging words, comments, questions, etc.

##### ➤ **Become an Active Listener** – talk less and listen more

- Don't just hear – listen to the heart.
- Learn to listen to the person and not be thinking of other things.
- Say, “I am with you. I will take the time. I will give you my attention.”
- Give feedback – feedback is letting people know you heard what they said – rephrase what was said to indicate you understand them.
- Learn not to give sermons, a list of scriptures, or judgmental statements.

##### ➤ **Communicate Encouragement** – encouragement is caring and expressing it!

- An important part of encouragement is communication. Encouragement isn't encouragement unless it has been received. – it **MUST** be communicated.
- **Philippians 2:19**
- Make sure we don't practice “out of sight, out of mind” – you must stay in contact.
- ALL missionaries experience loneliness and isolation – not just in the beginning (especially true around holidays and birthdays). Make a list of all the families' birthdays and send them a birthday card, either in the mail or electronically.

➤ **Letters**

- Letters can be preferred even over telephone calls or Skype calls because they can speak over and over.
- Make sure not to preach! Share what God is saying to you.
- Let them know you remember what they've shared with you.
- Express interest – ask questions, comment on what they said before.
- Share about yourself and what's happening with you, not just facts, but what God's doing in your life.
- Don't share scripture to preach to them, but one that's meaningful to you or that He's spoken to you to share with them.
- Great for kids to write to kids. They get lonely and homesick, too. Help the kids to know what to write.
- Ask them if certain topics should be avoided in communication. In some countries this can cause problems for the missionaries.

➤ **More Ways to Communicate**

- Ask them how it's best to communicate with them.
- Note about sending packages: Talk with the missionaries about it in advance (there are customs issues and other areas to consider; it could also be very expensive). Make sure you send things they want or need.
- Consider this: "In what practical ways can I help to encourage people who are called to be missionaries?"
  - Email, Facebook, or other social media.
  - Skype or other similar sites.
  - Telephone.
  - Cards or packages.
  - Personal visits.

## 5. IMPORTANT NOTES FOR ALL SENDERS:

- When a missionary comes home or is home, he/she still has needs.
  - This is a warning to the church and all senders not simply to think that when missionaries return home that they're "fine" and don't need any more prayer.
  - This is often a very difficult time for missionaries. This can be "reverse culture shock," the struggles of adjusting back to their own culture. They'll often feel as if they're like people on a different planet. They should know what to do, but they don't. Things have changed in their home culture and so many may have forgotten what life is like in their own country (especially true of children).
  - Also, sometimes only the Lord knows the wounds they've received while out in ministry. They need people who will stick with them, not just while they're on the mission field, but when they come home (either temporarily or permanently).
  - Understand that "home is where the heart is," is a very important thing for missionaries to remember. Often their heart is still very much with "their people" on the field. Continue your ministry to missionaries even while they're back "home."
- "Extended time" is the important concept here.
  - Fewer than 35% of missionaries stay on the field more than 3–4 years. Often this can be linked to inadequate support as we've described.
  - Their need for prayer, encouragement, practical support, and giving will not lessen while they're back. Your commitment should be to the people, not just the job!
- During this time of returning home, these are very important ways you can help – just keep your eyes and ears open and take the initiative to let them know you want to be there for them.
  - Make sure every family member knows you want to help him or her.
  - Children often really struggle with returning home. Consider the percentage of their lives that have been spent in another culture. They are going to go through "culture shock" again when they return.
- The goal for a missionary returning into their own culture is INTEGRATION – Integration is not simple and should not be taken for granted.
  - Work toward helping them to integrate and adapt.
  - This is the goal for returning to their home culture (if they're staying) – that they'll begin to feel more "normal" there. It doesn't happen automatically or without help.



- Very often senders don't understand what a difficult process relocation is:
  - Greet them when they arrive – make them feel welcomed and honored.
  - Help with a place to stay, transportation, and meals until they can get settled.
  - Take them shopping (they won't understand all the new things that have come out).
  - Help with medical needs (whether they feel like it or not).
  
- **JUST SPEND TIME WITH THEM.**
  - Maybe the most important thing you can do is to be interested and listen.
  - Help them slowly integrate into their new environment.
  - Look for ways to have them share and be a part.
  - Offer them an appropriate ministry at the right time