

What is Missionary Care?

The intentional investment by members of a church in their missionaries, in order to increase the longevity of ministry on the field and to help maintain missionaries' personal and spiritual health.

What is the goal of Missionary Care?

To partner with missionaries in order to speed the spread of the Gospel and increase awareness of what God is doing around the world.

- Mike and Beth both grew up as Missionary Kids and have experienced both good and bad church relationships.
- The Mathesons' ministry is to help meet the needs of Wycliffe families who have teenagers.

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The Seven C's of Missionary Care

*How your church can
minister to missionaries*



Your church can learn to effectively care for its missionaries

Whether your church has a care program in place or is just developing one, your church members can benefit from knowing **seven critical aspects** of missionary care.

Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.

1 Thessalonians 5:11 (NIV)

And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds.

Hebrews 10:24 (NIV)



Care

In order for there to be a successful partnership, both the church and its missionaries should care about developing a mutual connection. It is important that they build a relationship of service and trust.

Consider

It's helpful for the church to give their missionaries grace and space. Recognize that missionaries struggle like everyone and often need some "down-time" to recover from the pressures of being on the field.

Counsel

Offer to provide a *confidential* advisory panel for missionaries so that they can have someone to pray with and talk to when problems arise. It should be low-key, designed to provide resources and encouragement rather than add more pressure to their lives.

Contact

Arrange for your missionaries to be seen in your church. Display their prayer cards, and ask them to share with your congregation either in person or by video.

Communicate

Find as many ways as possible for members of your church to communicate with missionaries. This could include calling, writing, e-mailing, and sending packages. Send care packages with new clothes, letters, and anything they might be missing. Send them a video/audio/DVD of an encouraging greeting, a special church event, or even a recording of the Super Bowl! Have Sunday school classes adopt the members of each missionary family that would be in their group. Before a family returns, send pictures of the classes with names labeled so that they can have a sense of familiarity.

Collaborate

Work together with missionaries. If they are in town for furlough, you may want to offer them the role of "Missionary in Residence," so they can work closely with your church. Organize church/youth group mission trips to assist your missionaries on the field.

Continue

Keep going even if there is no response! They may not be responding due to a busy schedule or a difficult situation. These are the times missionaries need encouragement the most.