

The Local Church's Role as Sender

- Recruits and carefully selects/screens potential cross-cultural workers.
- Develops future missionaries' gifting, godly character, and ministry readiness by providing varied service opportunities inside and outside the church context.
- "Owns" not only the missionaries, but their ministry goals. In other words, the church is not focused just on their missionaries as people but also highly committed to achieving the purpose for which the workers are sent.
- Works to increase the congregation's vision and passion for global outreach, educating the people regarding their biblical missions responsibilities.
- Commits a generous amount of financial support to their missionaries, commensurate with the congregation's financial resources.
- Volunteers on-site assistance, experience, and other resources whenever possible in order to provide missionaries with all they need to accomplish the task for which they have been sent.
- Disseminates information from missionaries to the congregation, and intercedes fervently and specifically in both corporate and private prayer sessions.
- Maintains a steady stream of communication to the missionaries in order to foster a continued sense of their membership in the local body of Christ.
- Provides pastoral care throughout the workers' ministry in cooperation with the sending agency.
- Delegates on-field supervision to the sending agency administration, but, with prior agreement with the sending agency, may take an active role in helping to determine ministry priorities and strategies.
- Works with the sending agency to address on-field problems based on healthy, open communication and mutual respect.
- Shares responsibility for major ministry decisions related to the missionary's location, ministry focus, and continued service.
- Works closely with the sending agency to resolve crisis situations such as health emergencies, evacuations, physical attack, etc.
- Assists missionaries with home-assignment logistics.
- Helps to provide renewal and 'retooling' as well as appropriate service opportunities during home assignment.
- Assist missionaries with family concerns.
- Works with the sending agency to make sure that missionaries are provided with adequate health care, pension, etc.
- Informs other supporting churches of the missionaries' needs and ministry, as appropriate.



Source: TEAM (www.teamworld.org) as listed in *Skills, Knowledge, Character: A Church-Based Approach to Missionary Candidate Preparation*, Greg Carter, 2010, p. 118. (Order from TurtleRiverPress@gmail.com)