



## GUIDE TO PARTNERING

### GUIDELINE QUESTIONS ABOUT SUPPORTING CHURCH PLANTS OR COMPASSIONATE MINISTRIES

*Our overarching task is to advance the Great Commission of Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ and to live out His Great Commandment.*

#### **A note to Mission Workers:**

- The better you understand your task, and the more ably you can communicate your vision, the easier you make it for others to partner with you. Be intentional and work at this exercise. [A clearly written answer will help you to sharpen your own focus!]
- Take the time and make the time to develop your partners – for prayer, finance and other forms of partnership. You are investing substantially and you are asking others to invest in you and with you. Make it as easy as possible for potential partners to catch your heartbeat and to understand your needs and to know what you want of them by communicating well.

#### **Glossary:**

- Mission Worker = anyone involved in ministry and looking for material support from partnering churches or individuals (includes church planters, compassionate ministries' workers, etc.)
- Sponsor = an individual, agency or church that provides initial endorsement or support for a startup
- Partner = anyone who partners with a Mission Worker to advance a given ministry. The commitment might be prayer, finances, time, etc.

#### **Note to potential partners or sponsors:**

- In the past, EMCC published a list with targets through such initiatives as the “Adopt-a-Church” plan. This is no longer the case.
- This will place more of an onus on missions committees (or the like) in prospective supporting churches to do their homework. This will require more direct interaction between a mission work or worker and the partnering church and this can only be healthy!
- Because we believe that a more substantial accountability and relationship between a local church and a mission church or worker is important, we want to encourage you to give careful attention to whom you give support.
- It is good to ask those whom you support to share their vision and their plan of how they are achieving that vision. It is good for the mission church or worker to report to you about the kind of stewards they have been with your investment in them.
- It is good for the supporting church to take enough interest to send congregational visitors to visit “on site” and to be open to other involvement with the daughter work or with the worker.
- The following questions are intended to help workers to clarify and communicate their vision and ministry (as well as helping them assess their own ministries), and;
- To help potential sponsors or partners to make informed decisions as they exercise stewardship of the Lord's resources.

- The questions below are really an expansion of 4 key questions:

1. What is the vision and mission of this ministry?
2. Does the mission worker have a plan to get there?
3. What kind of evidence is there that this is a worthy and needy ministry?
4. What is the mission worker asking of the potential partner?

### **Questions You Can Use In Assessing A Ministry Or Project:**

1. What is your vision? Can you describe what your preferred future looks like? What outcomes are you looking for?
2. What is your mission/ purpose? What goals or objectives have you set? Is it a worthy goal?
3. Who are you targeting -- community or people group?
4. What is your ministry plan? What steps have you planned to take to realize your vision and advance your purpose?
5. Have you identified the resources, facilities, personnel, assets that you will need and that you already have? Have you set some target dates and milestones to get your project moving?
6. Have you worked up a budget?
7. What are you asking of your potential partners?
8. To whom are you accountable? How, when and what will you report to your sponsors or partners or supervisor? Who will be your mentor or coach? Who will help with an assessment of your work?
9. Have you taken appropriate steps in outlining job descriptions and qualifications for the workers on your team? Have you thought about the tools or methods you will use to train, care for and support your team?
10. Who is sponsoring you in your ministry? Do you have references that we can check? List them with addresses and phone numbers. (You might want to attach a letter of endorsement or recommendation.)

### **Additional Questions To Ask Concerning Ongoing Projects Or Ministries:**

*All the previous questions are applicable to both new and ongoing projects or ministries but here are some additional questions pertinent to ongoing projects or ministries.*

11. Have you a report on the ministry goals set in the last year and how you did in achieving those goals?
12. Have you been reporting on a regular basis to your present sponsors and partners? Can you send copies of these reports upon request?
13. Have you produced financial statements that show that funds were responsibly handled? Do you have a church or responsible individual or agency acting as your treasurer or financial office?
14. Can you tell us who are your present partners? Are we free to contact them?

*Regional Ministers will provide support to Mission Workers in preparing a presentation based on answers to the above questions. If you choose to make use of this offer, plan ahead. In any case be proactive in getting this done.*

God bless you!