



World Partners
Following Jesus Together
Global Mission Terms

PREAMBLE

World Partners knows that we are on a learning journey together, but let's face it, there are many terms in this Global Mission conversation that need explaining. This listing of terms covers many concepts and principles that are in our proposed vision, and a few other terms that get used a lot. If there are still other things you read or hear that are confusing, use the space provided to let us know. We hope that all of us grow to understand and participate in God's mission together.

Asset-Based Community Development (ABCD) – ABCD is a way of approaching people to help them discover the strengths and resources they have, as assets to be celebrated, built upon, and expanded. We celebrate those resources which God has given, the creativity He provides to solve problems, trusting Him for community transformation.

Business As Mission – We celebrate that international business is part of God's plan to extend His mission to all people groups. The early church grew out of traders and dispersed people sharing their life with Jesus with new people. The global marketplace is open, and we celebrate God's nudging of people to cross-cultural and international mission engagement today through this channel.

Call/Calling – The calling that is common to all followers of Jesus is the awareness that we have been sent by the God of mission to wherever He has placed us on earth, as participants in His Mission. Calling begins with the leading of God's Spirit in the life of a follower of Jesus, providing direction for one's life purpose, in accordance with the Scriptures. It is important for calling to be affirmed by the church community, based on the evidence of spiritual gifts, and proven effectiveness. Mission Agencies facilitate people in their calling, highlighting the needs of the Global Church, and unengaged people groups. A person's calling is also a journey, and so it might change throughout a person's lifetime.

Church-To-Church Mission Engagement – Sometimes called Church to Church Partnership (C2CP), this method of global mission engagement is on the rise among our EMCC churches. Churches are establishing direct relationships with those they relate to internationally. We encourage the best practices possible for these partnerships. Also, we provide a link (as the Agency) so that many our EMCC churches can tie in to an overall vision of the Global Partner relationship, with the Partner, Agency, and Churches working together.

Creative Access Countries – A context where there are political or social obstacles to being a 'missionary' but where followers of Jesus can make a real impact by simply being present and living out the way of Jesus. Workers assigned to creative-access countries are often labelled "sensitive missionaries", "workplace missionaries" or simply "Global Professionals". There are "Business As Mission" and "Expat (Expatriate English-speaking) Church" networks to help people who accept this challenge.

Culture - An integrated system of beliefs (about God or reality or ultimate meaning), of values (about what is true, good, beautiful and normative), of customs (how to behave, relate to others, talk, pray, dress, work, play, trade, farm, eat, etc.), and of institutions which express these beliefs, values and customs (government, law courts, temples or churches, family, schools, hospitals, factories, shops, unions, clubs, etc.), which binds a society together and gives it a sense of identity, dignity, security, and continuity.

Diaspora – People from a particular culture or country who have been dispersed throughout the world, often with a strong invisible tie to their people.

Disciple – A follower of Jesus, who has a posture of a learner, who looks to imitate the Master, and whose life is reproduced in others, meaning that a disciple is a disciple-maker, as Jesus was.

World Partners Missionary – see “Global Workers”.

Followers of Jesus – Before the early disciples were called Christians (at Antioch – ref. Acts 11:26), they were called “followers of the Way”. This roots one’s whole life in the identity of the One we are following, rather than the specific religious practices or traditions that arise.

Global Partners – EMCC relates to Partner Churches or Denominations, some of whom belong to “World Partners International”. These are all classified as “Global Partners”.

Global Professionals – people who serve with World Partners using their business or vocation internationally, who exemplify the Way of Jesus in their everyday lives, inspiring others to follow Him too.

Global South – a reference to the peoples and countries from Central and South America, Africa, and South-East Asia, who are now the majority population of followers of Jesus on the earth, and whose voice is increasing in global mission activity. [see Majority World]

Global Workers – all EMCC people who are recognized and sent by God, and affirmed by an EMCC church community, and by World Partners through one of our credentials are classified as “Global Workers”.

Indigenous Church – indigenous people are those who are native, that is naturally originating from a given place. The Indigenous Church is simply the native-born followers of Jesus who lead the advance of God’s Mission to their own people group and beyond.

Integral Development – Integral means “making whole”. This is a kind of development that is rooted in the relationships of disciple-making over the long haul. We participate with God’s mission by living and proclaiming the good news, equipping the Indigenous-led Church to lead their own culture’s development, through recognizing the God-given resources they have, and participating in seeing solutions. They are the bringers of good news, and we support them. This is different from “Aid” in general, and “Emergency Relief”.

Integral Mission - In integral mission, our “preaching” has social consequences as we call people to love and repentance in all areas of life. And our “social action” has evangelistic consequences as we bear witness to the transforming grace of Jesus Christ. If we ignore the world, we betray the Word of God which sends us out to serve the world. If we ignore the Word of God, we have nothing to bring to the world.’ [adapted from the “Lausanne Covenant”]

Majority World – we speak of the majority of people, who live in Africa, the Middle East, SE Asia, and China. Our posture towards the world’s peoples and cultures is shoulder-to-shoulder, walking together.

Mission – in World Partners, mission describes the core purposeful activity of God, and the recognition that the Church is invited by God to participate in the mission of God.

Missions – traditionally, this term described all intentional culture-crossing or boundary-crossing engagement. Because it often implies an ‘outreach program’ to others, it can be received as a power-dynamic of one group over another. Therefore, we find greater clarity and centring on Jesus through the use of the term “Mission” [see Mission].

Missionary – a person who is sent by God to a different culture whose primary agenda is to share the Gospel of the Kingdom through words and deeds. In recent centuries, this term was commonly associated with people from wealthy Western societies commissioned specifically for this task, and often fully supported financially by people in their home country. Earlier expressions of “sent-ones” were followers of Jesus who were dispersed by persecution, who often used their trade to provide for themselves.

Long-term / Career Mission Worker – The definition of long-term service has shifted in our time, as noted by the Canadian Evangelical Mission Engagement Study (CEMES) conducted by the Evangelical Fellowship of Canada, from 30 years to somewhere between 2 and 5 years. World Partners recognized the strategic long-term investment of our human resources as a way we can respond to the requests of our Global Partners, in building their capacity, and in joining together in God’s mission to the rest of the world.

Leadership (Disciple-making Leader) Development – Disciple-makers with leadership giftings are those whom God calls and positions into leadership over disciple-making movements. Church communities thrive and develop in healthy ways when these leaders model and live for Jesus, and avoid the pitfalls of building their own empires or egos.

Partnership – Two organizations who agree to cooperate together, outlining specific objectives. In World Partners, we build these in the unity of the Spirit, in mutual love, in humility and preferring one another (Philippians 2), and in avoiding unhealthy dependencies.

Posture – The approach and attitude within our engagement with others, taking into account the perception and the effects on relationship that come from them.

Prayer – Conversation with our Great God, who is guiding us, and causing renewal of all things, either immediately, or by the end of this Age. Prayer is our constant calling of dependence, trust, and accountability with God, who is present in all aspects of our efforts as we journey with Jesus. We call the Church to pray creatively, continually, and corporately for God’s Kingdom to come among all peoples.

Reciprocity – In the spirit of mutuality with the whole Church, World Partners is committed to forming and maintaining reciprocal relationships of influence, for the sake of disciple-making movement around the world, including in Canada. As we engage in partnership with followers of Jesus from other cultures, we seek their voice and activity in our Country as well.

Resources – see “Integral Development” – In moving us away from taking a “project” approach to helping others, we root development in the discovery and use of the resources God has given to all people:

- Natural Resources - what God has provided in His creation.
- Physical Resources - What we make from Natural resources.
- Human Resources - The skills / gifts in the people
- Social Resources - groups of people who are working together. A farmers group, for example, and the International Body of Christ.
- Spiritual Resources - God Himself by His Spirit, Life-on-life Discipling, Churches, Pastors, Scripture.
- Economic Resources - Markets, shared economy, financial capital.
- Time - which must not be wasted.

[source: Francis Njoroge, Tearfund, UK]

Relief (Emergency / Disaster) – The coordinated provision of urgent and temporary resources to reduce suffering from a natural or human-caused crisis. Key features of relief include the provider-receiver dynamic in which the provider gives assistance to the receiver, who is largely incapable of helping themselves at that time. It is fuelled by compassion.

Refugee Sponsorship – the process available for church communities to work together in supporting new Canadians for up to 2 years, who land as refugees. We share the Way of Jesus through blessing them, providing basic needs, creating community for and with them, and helping them integrate in society.

Sent/sentness – Our God is a sending God. God the Father sent The Son, who promised and sent The Holy Spirit, and sends the Church on mission in the world. This state of “being sent” is the defining mark of the community of followers of Jesus, the Global Church. The ability to listen to God’s invitation to participate in His Mission, and to the people among whom we are sent (John 20:21) [See “Calling”], includes where we live right now.

Short-term Mission Trips (STMs) – In World Partners, this has been known as Volunteer Teams for some time (V-Teams). STMs are one way that people are engaged and mobilized to participate in mission in the world.

Way of Jesus – In EMCC, you will hear this term used as a descriptor for the life of a follower of Jesus, to define what we mean when we respond to Jesus’ commission to go and make disciples. While NOT a program, it a way of framing one’s life with Jesus, for Jesus, and in the power of the Spirit of Jesus that is described in an ongoing, continuous way. It also gives Jesus’ followers everywhere a simple and transferrable way of helping anyone to follow Him in their everyday life as well. (see wayofjesus.ca)

OTHER TERMS: