

The Sending Triangle

Church and Agency Partnerships



THE
GREENHOUSE

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PIONEERS



To Marry or Not To Marry...

Sending your international worker with a mission agency has similarities to getting married. It's a big commitment that, God willing, lasts a long time. Think and pray carefully before you decide to "stay single"! While some churches can "go it alone" in missions sending, it's a lot harder than you think. But marriage isn't easy either! To begin with, it would be helpful to know what frustrations you have had in your past relationships with agencies.

In the complexities introduced internationally since COVID, what are some reasons you can think of that would make partnering with an agency worthwhile?

Discuss some concerns your team may have with the idea of partnering in a deep trust relationship with an agency to send cross-cultural workers.

Pick Your Partner Carefully

Identifying the best agency to partner with can play a huge role in successfully sending out global workers. It can mean the difference between a church later reporting, "We went through some tough times with our missionary, but their agency worked closely with us to determine what was best for our workers and the work" in contrast to "Because we didn't ask enough questions up front, our missionaries chose an agency unequipped to serve them and unwilling to work with us as sending church. Sadly, that played a big role in their leaving the field."

What are some questions you should ask a potential partner agency to ensure they are a good fit for your sending vision?

What are some "non-negotiables" you need to keep in mind in engaging with a potential sending agency partnership? What are some values you need to discuss with them?



Great Expectations

Have you considered the expectations your church has for your role as a sending church? Not every sending congregation wants to fulfill all possible sending functions, nor to the same degree. It is mutually beneficial for church and agency to sit down together to discuss their shared role in the ministry of the person they are commissioning to serve. Together you can clarify the roles and responsibilities each member of the triangle—church, agency, missionary—will seek to fulfill.

What aspects of the sending process do you think your church can handle effectively?

What are some areas that you think you'll need help from your agency partner?

How can you communicate these specifics with your agency partner?



Great Relationships Take Work

Everything said about a new partnership applies to maintaining a current one. Back to the marriage analogy: You may have a great spouse but if you don't give time to the relationship, it's not going to be a great marriage. Determine what to do each year to maintain a productive relationship on behalf of the ministry and your worker.

Discuss how assuming one party in your partnership with “do it all” in each of these areas might affect your ministry partnership as a sending church:

■ ***Missionary Care***

■ ***Visits to the Field***

■ ***Conflict Resolution***

■ ***Transitions***

Additional Resources

Selecting a Missions Agency – Postings Article:

<https://catalystservices.org/selecting-a-missions-agency>

The Sending Triangle Worksheet – Postings Article

<https://catalystservices.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/Sending-Triangle-Worksheet.pdf>

Is This The Team For Me? – Postings Article

<https://catalystservices.org/is-this-the-team-for-me>