

A Cord of Three Strands

MC2 2019 Breakout Session

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Introductions of presenters & special guests

What is “A Cord of Three Strands”? Missionary / Mission Agency / Sending Church

“When the missionary care team of a church joins with the mission agency, there is a powerful synergy that takes place which results in an effective, happy and healthy missionary on the field who is serving the kingdom of God in amazing ways.” - Bill & Betty Jane Born and David Wilson, Mind the Gaps p 102

Assumptions:

1. There is a mission agency, or at least a local ministry that the missionary has joined/will join
2. The missionary is being sent out from a sending church

Difference between a Sending Church and a Supporting Church from MTG, p. 95:

Sending Church: one which takes full responsibility of a missionary on behalf of the agency for the purposes of Commissioning, Missionary Care, and overall development in partnership with the agency.

Supporting Church: one “that may provide funding, but does not co-sign for the missionary with the agency. The difference between a “sending” and a “supporting” church is not necessarily determined by the amount of financial support, but primarily determined by the closeness of the relationship.”

What does a good relationship between the Missionary, the Agency, and the Sending Church look like?

- The relationship is based on their common goals of increasing the effectiveness of the missionary by caring, praying and through financial support -MTG p 95

1. Knowing who each other is
 - a. The missionary introduces the church and agency to each other: Who represents the church? Who represents the agency? Do missionaries know they should do this?
 - b. Reaching out to each other: Whose responsibility is it to see that the agency and church are united and coordinated in their efforts to support the missionary? The church? The agency? The missionary?
 - c. Getting to know each other: how could that happen?

2. Mutual respect
3. Open, positive, regular communication
4. Understanding & defining each other's role (varies for every agency and church)
 - Strategy on the field
 - Care of the missionary
 - Creating a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)

Churches can assist

New missionary candidates: help them choose an agency that will support them well

Missionaries already serving with an agency: Look for gaps in care.

Six areas of missionary support, from *Serving as Senders Today* by Neal Pirollo:

- Moral Support
- Logistics Support
- Financial Support
- Prayer Support
- Communication Support
- Reentry Support

Questions to consider

Is this kind of collaboration common? If not, why not, and what could be done to facilitate it?

Who has the final authority in making decisions? The agency, the church, or the missionary?

Read MTG p 99

What if one or more strands are weak?

What if either the agency or sending church strand is missing?

Conclusion:

A healthy, intentional and vibrant relationship between all parties is the key for successful missionary support. – MTG p 99