



# Turning Supporting Churches into Partnership Churches

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For years the relationship between churches and their ministry partners has been an exchange of money for a monthly newsletter, creating a church that watches the missionaries go and do the work. This structure has caused the church to be less engaged in missions and only supporting missions. We want to see churches much more involved with their missionaries and personally connected to both the mission and the person. A “supporting church” just sends money whereas a “partnering church” sends people, resources, care and money.

*“A partnering church is a caring church.”*

- Bryan Nicholson

## GOALS

1. Defining what is a partnership church
2. Identify how partnerships relate to care and why it benefits my church
3. Create a transition plan from support to partnership

## SUPPORT vs PARTNERSHIP

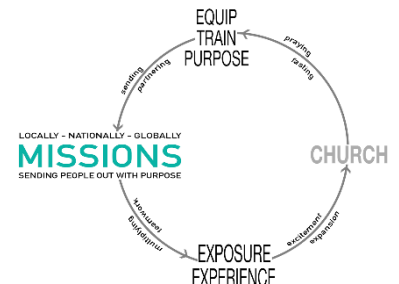
### Biblical examples

- Paul/Antioch – Acts 13
- Tabernacle - Exodus 31
- Temple - I Chronicles 22
- Church in Philippi- Philippians 4



### QUESTION: Why is it a challenge to be partnership driven?

- Church-driven vision only: where the missionary is the employee
- Missionary-driven vision only: where the church has no involvement or participation in the work



QUESTION: What do churches struggle with the most when it comes to partnership missions?

- Not relationally driven
- Not Kingdom focused

<b>SUPPORT</b>	<b>PARTNERSHIP</b>
Investment into others work	Personal involvement and investment (training/teaching/equipping/expectations) - Ephesians 4/Exodus 31- Tabernacle/David & Solomon- Temple/Nehemiah
Doesn't require much time or effort	Involves planning and personal connection
Not a focused work	Tailored to fit vision
No Benefit/results for church	Benefits both Church and Missionary
Only involves a few people	Greater Church involvement
Easier and traditional model	Long-term sustainability

What drives supporting churches?

- Budget
- Inwardly focused with an undefined missions strategy
- It's an easy and familiar process

What drives partnership churches?

- Relationships
- Vision
- Shared goals

**GOAL & BENEFIT OF PARTNERSHIP**

- Shared responsibility of the Great Commission
- Healthier Churches and Missionaries



## MOVING FROM SUPPORT TO PARTNERSHIP

- Prayer [\(Download a Prayer Guide\)](#)
- Relationships
- Strategy for partnership - Long-term vision and process
- Mission Support Teams
- Strategy for Care
- Consider your pace



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### Suggested Resources

- VISION FOR PARTNERSHIP: *Antioch Revisited, Tom Julien*
- VISION & TRANSITION FOR PARTNERSHIP: *The Sending Church, Pat Hood*
- VISION & IMPLEMENTATION FOR PARTNERSHIPS: *Well Sent, Steve Beirn*
- BETTER UNDERSTANDING MISSIONARY LIFE: *Serving Well, Trotter*
- RESOURCES & COMMUNITY AROUND PARTNERSHIPS: [The Here2There Network](#)