

# KBF and EEAM

## Church-to-Church Partnering

Dear KBF Moroccan Partnership Pioneers,

We give thanks to God for your willingness to join with Christians on another continent to further the work of God's Kingdom in the world!

As you know, the primary model for mission and ministry that the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship embraces is that of partnership -- joining together with others who share our commitment to Christ, his church, and his mission as we follow the lead of the Spirit to minister in God's beloved world. Because we believe that God in Christ was reconciling the world to himself and that we have been made one in Christ Jesus, we also believe that we are called to break down barriers, bridge gaps, and cross divides to realize our Christian unity and work together to achieve Christ's purpose.

Through your commitment to this Moroccan partnership, you have chosen to do this in a very concrete and practical way, crossing geographic, cultural, and language barriers to unite with Christians in Morocco for ministry.

It is the desire of KBF leadership that your partnership be worked out at the grassroots level between the two sisters congregations, representing the desires and goals you embrace together. However, we want to offer you some guidelines and tools for beginning this venture of partnership. In this packet you will find:

- Getting started guidelines
- Individual and family profile sheets
- List of possible activities sister congregations may wish to undertake together

We hope this will be helpful to you as you step out on faith, outside your comfort zone, to break some new ground in the Kingdom of God. We trust that it will prove fertile and yield blessing beyond your expectation.

Grace and peace,

Rhonda Abbott Blevins and Karen Thomas Smith

# Guidelines for Getting Started on your Church-to-Church Partnership

*Your sister congregation will receive the same guidelines on their end.*

**1) Set up a Team.** Set up a local Morocco Partnership team made up of folks who are excited about this cross-cultural ministry experience and let them move the process along.

**2) Communicate.** Have the partnership team motivate the larger congregation to own this work, getting invested in the partnership. Get groups within the congregation together to brainstorm three questions:

- ⊙ What would I like to offer to this partnership/What would I like US to offer to this partnership?
- ⊙ What would I like to receive from this partnership/What would I like US to receive from this partnership?
- ⊙ What would I like us to achieve through this partnership?

Compile these responses. Then ask the Church council (or another governing body of the church) to write a letter to your sister congregation expressing your hopes and dreams for the partnership.

**3) Getting-to-Know-You Packet.** Prepare a Getting-to-Know-You packet to mail to your sister congregation including the following:

- ⊙ **A Church History Timeline:** Prepare a paper banner that tells the story of your congregation through a timeline. In a prominent place at the church, Hang the banner up marking dates on it, starting with the founding of the church. Have someone who knows the church's history mark the original dates, then leave markers, crayons, and scotch tape next to the banner so that other members of the congregation can add dates, drawings, and pictures to fill it in.
- ⊙ **A Child's Eye View:** Have the children of your church draw pictures of church life from their perspective showing who you are and what you do. Encourage them to depict different dimensions of the life of the church: Worship, Bible Study, ministry, fellowship, and fun. THEN, ask them to draw a picture of what they think their sister church in Morocco might be like.
- ⊙ **Individual and Family Profiles:** Identify individuals and families who would like to get involved with individuals and/or families from your sister church. Ask them to complete an individual/family profile to be sent to the church. An e-mail address is required for this, as email will be the primary means of communication.

**4) Scrapbook.** Make a photo album/scrap book that presents your congregation to send to your sister church. Make sure these photos show photos of ministry and mission activities as well as day to day church life. Pack this up in a box to be sent (or hand-carried) to your sister congregation!

# Individual/Family Profile Sheet

Family Name:

Names/ages of individuals in your family:

Please describe each person in your family (primary occupation, interests, favorites).

<i>Name</i>	<i>Description</i>
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Please ask each person in your family to share a favorite Bible verse

<i>Name</i>	<i>Verse</i>
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Tell anything else you would like folks in your sister church to know about you:

Please attach a picture of each family member and any pets you have!

*(These don't have to be mug shots; they can be snapshots that reveal who you are...)*

# Possible Activities for Sister Congregations

- Choose a book of the Bible to study together over a period of time and share reflections/images/and thoughts.  
*(Get the children involved in this!)*
- Make a CD of music for your sister congregation.  
*(VHS tapes cannot be played in Moroccan video players...)*
- As an intergenerational activity, make a worship banner for your sister congregation to use in their worship.
- With your sister congregatino, pick a theological theme for a quarter (spiritual gifts, vocation and work, faith and money, etc) to study together. Study the theme, and make a poster or creative visual presentation on the theme to send to your sister congregation.
- Choose a simultaneous ministry project to take part in on both sides of the Atlantic (providing clothes for an orphanage, doing a fun-day with handicapped children). Take digital pictures and send them to your sister congregation. Make a joint display of pictures.
- Do a congregational study of Islam. Get your sister congregation to help you by providing insights, ideas.
- Study French and learn some Bible verses/songs in French.

*These are just a few ideas of things that can be done!  
The possibilities are limitless!*